Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
IN31We

Resume

All States

Farm Fillers

Studies by the U. S. Department of Agriculture show that more than half the retail price of food goes for processing (various kinds of preparation for retail sale) and distribution. Eight cents out of every dollar spent for food pays for transportation alone.

With the help of industry and other non-Government sources, the U. S. Department of Agriculture's marketing service is looking into how the use of trading stamps affects the cost and efficiency of retail food marketing. Trading stamps originated back in the 1890's, but their use has greatly expanded since 1950, according to the USDA.

Retail food stores are getting larger and larger, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The average size increased so much between 1948 and 1954, Census figures show that the number of grocery stores declined more than 20 percent despite a large increase in total food sales.

Stores with annual sales of over a million dollars more than tripled. These jumbo-sized stores were still less than 2.5 percent of the total number in 1954--6,000 out of 270,000--but they made almost a third of total sales. Average total sales per store rose from $70,000 in 1948 to $123,000 in 1954.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
En31We
Reserve

236218

CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
MAY 2 2 1957
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

Federal-State Studies Are Aimed at the Prevention and Cure of Bloat

Some new light on the age-old problem of bloat is slowly emerging from intensive studies at the U. S. Department of Agriculture and a number of cooperating State agricultural experiment stations, reports ______________________ (State or local authority).

Bloat has been a common problem to cattle owners since at least as far back as Biblical times, probably longer. Yet little is actually known about the cause, prevention, or most effective treatment of this disorder.

There's no full answer yet, either as to its cause or its cure, says ______________, but recent USDA studies of feedlot bloat indicate that there are probably a number of interacting causes. Animals under study differed greatly in their susceptibility to bloat, and this difference could not be related to eating habits or total feed intake. This suggests that tendency to bloat may be inherited, says ________________.

No definite recommendations for treatment are yet offered, but bloat can be relieved by use of a large-size stomach tube. This is believed by the USDA researchers to be the safest method at present. Old-time remedies such as kerosene and turpentine are sometimes effective, according to __________, because they break up the rumen froth that prevents the animal from belching.

Losses in this country due to bloat are estimated at $40 million yearly from deaths and decreased production. Much of this loss occurs on legume pastures, but some occurs also in feedlot animals. The USDA researchers produced frothy bloat in 11 animals by feeding them daily 14 pounds of concentrate (61 percent barley, 22 percent alfalfa meal, 16 percent soybean oil meal, and 1 percent sodium chloride) and 4 pounds of alfalfa hay.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
IN31We

CURR
MAY 22 1957
U. S. ... CULTURE

Maine, N. H., Vt., Mass., Conn., R. I.

New England Dairymen Might Find It Cheaper to Buy Rather Than to Raise Herd Replacements

Release

On the basis of current prices and practices, commercial milk producers in New England might find it more economical in the long run to buy mature cows for herd replacements than to raise their own. This suggestion arises from studies conducted by economists G. E. Frick of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and W. F. Henry of the New Hampshire Agricultural Experiment Station.

In general, the New England studies indicate that it pays to carry as many producers as possible with the facilities and resources available, even though this means raising fewer or no replacements.

Whether cows should be raised or purchased for herd replacements, say Frick and Henry, depends on the quantity and flexibility of resources on the farm. Of the farmers surveyed in their study, 85 percent had enough labor to handle an extra 17 purchased cows per farm, enough barn space for 10 more, and some good forage that could be used to carry either cows or young stock.

Another thing suggested by the studies is that dairymen forced out of business by new milk-handling methods and the trend toward higher costs in commercial milk production might find it profitable to raise replacements for commercial producers.

Both raised and purchased cows were found to produce about the same amount of milk and were equally free of disease. Purchased cows had a longer total productive life than raised animals, having survived the test of earlier culling in other herds.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
In3iWe

All States

Marketing Research Benefits Farmers, Food Industries, and Consumers

Sometimes simple little things like how watermelons are loaded in a railway car can make a big difference in how much consumers have to pay for food, and consequently how much they may buy.

More than half the total cost of food now goes for all the expenses involved in marketing it. These marketing costs, points out ____________ (State or local authority), affect how much the farmer can get for his products, how much profit can be made in handling farm products and preparing them for retail sale, and how much consumers can afford to buy. To make the marketing process as efficient as possible for the benefit of everyone involved in producing, selling and consuming farm products, the U. S. Department of Agriculture conducts a broad-scale research program aimed at getting agricultural products to consumers at their peak of quality and at the lowest possible price.

Their findings in regard to shipping watermelons are an example of what can be accomplished through this kind of work, says ____________.

For years shippers load melons lengthwise in railroad cars, and though there was some damage in transit, it was not serious. But with the development of new long-type melon varieties, the damage began to increase until it was three times the old rate. The new melons are more productive and have a better flavor, but they have a weak rind at the blossom end that damages easily under the impact of stopping and starting.

A number of experiments carried out by the USDA in cooperation with watermelon shippers showed that loading the melons crosswise in railroad cars would reduce bruising, cracking and surface scarring. The new method transferred the impact to the melons' sides where it is spread over a greater surface of thicker, stronger rind.

Initially, the railroads stand to gain by this research because the decreased damage will reduce claims that the railroads must pay. (Claims for damaged watermelons increased from an average of $30 per car in 1947 to $60 per car in 1955.) But eventually if lower damage continues, carrying rates, which are presently based on a high damage expectancy, may be adjusted to the lower rate of damage. Then everyone from producer to consumer will benefit.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
IN31We
Reserve

All States

USDA Finds Means of Checking Interior Quality of Fruits and Vegetables

Do you ever wish you could see what's inside the skin when buying fruits and vegetables? Of course you do, because it's so easy to be fooled by a lovely exterior. The producer and the retailer also think you're getting high quality if the outside of fruits or vegetables look good, but they may be wrong.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has come up with a machine that can show what's inside in the way of color and other quality-related factors, without damaging a fruit. The "rephobiospect"--as it's called--is a little like an X-ray machine, but works on a different principle. It sends light through the fruit and produces an electrical signal proportional to the amount of light passing through. The resulting measurement can be related to color and other factors inside the fruit.

So far most of the research with the "rephobiospect" has been with tomatoes, but other samples varying in size from a tomato seed to a large grapefruit have also been studied. Strictly a research tool for the present, this machine could be adapted for use in a fast moving assembly line in a packing or processing plant. Put to work commercially, the instrument could check quality as fast as fruit could be mechanically handled without damage.

At some time in the future, this may turn out to be a better substitute for the punching, squeezing and smelling that fruit is now necessarily exposed to at the hands of quality-conscious consumers. It may also furnish a means by which growers can be paid more nearly in proportion to the actual quality of their products.

USDA 282 (1-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
In31We
Reserve

L I B [illegible] CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
★ [illegible] 22 [illegible]
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

ACP Practices Can Be Carried Out on Soil Bank Land

Land which has been placed in the Soil Bank--either the Acreage Reserve or the Conservation Reserve--is still eligible for Federal cost-sharing in carrying out practices under the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP), ______________ reminded ____________ (State) farmers this week.

But applications for cost sharing for conservation practices must be filed with the county ASC committee before any practice is undertaken, _____________ said. The county committee is also the best source of information about which practices are approved for ACP cost-sharing in their county this year. Since approved practices are not the same in every county, it is important to check with the local committee, __________ stressed. The practices approved for each county include those that are considered most needed in that area.

Applications are now being received for the 1957 ACP at most county offices. All applications for approved practices that are received in time for consideration under this year's program will receive equal consideration, said _____________.

If ACP practices are carried out on land placed in the Soil Bank, the Soil Bank provisions of no grazing and no harvesting must of course be met. Some practices which are not eligible for assistance under the Conservation Reserve are eligible under ACP, and may be carried out on Conservation Reserve land if approved by the county ASC committee. Assistance, however, cannot be given under both programs for the same practice on the same acres.

"See your local ASC committee today to find out what aid is available to you in conserving and building up your land," ___________ recommended.

USDA 325 (1-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
IN31We
Reserve

Va., N. C., S. C., Ga., Fla., Ala., Tenn., Miss., La., Ark., Texas

Two Insecticides Show Promise for Controlling Pales Weevils in Pine Seedlings

On the basis of experiments by the U. S. Forest Service, benezene hexachloride and dieldrin have been found to be effective in protecting young pine seedlings from pales weevils. Both insecticides can be used as a spray for treatment of the soil around the seedlings, and dieldrin is also effective for dipping seedlings before planting.

Work carried out by the Forest Service at its Southeastern Forest Experiment Station in Asheville, N. C., indicates that use of either benzene hexachloride (BHC) or dieldrin should make it possible to plant seedlings in pine areas where pales weevils are present. Pine seedlings along the eastern coast and as far west as Texas are attacked when planted the first summer after cutting or after fires.

Adult pales weevils--dark reddish brown beetles about 1/4 to 3/8 inch long--feed on the tender bark of the young seedlings, girdling and killing the plants. They develop from eggs laid in roots of dying trees or fresh pine stumps where the grubs feed on the inner bark of the stumps or the sapwood of the roots where the bark is thin.

If planting is delayed a year, fewer eggs are laid in stumps and fewer insects feed on the seedlings. But the delay means lost growth time, and increased planting costs because hardwood species invade the planting sites. An insecticide that successfully controls pales weevils means that pine planting can follow immediately after cutting or after a fire.

USDA 344 (1-57)

U. S. DE

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
IN3iWe
Reserve

Ark., Conn., Del., Fla., Ga., Ill., Ind., Ky., La., Me., Md., Mass., Mich., Miss., Mo., N.H., N.J., N.Y., N.C., Ohio, Okla., Pa., R.I., S.C., Tenn., Tex., Vt., Va., W. Va., Wisc.

Spring Spraying Protects Pines From Damage by Pine Tip Moths

Pine tip moths may mean the difference between profit and loss on young pine plantations. But one thorough spraying just before or during the first flight of Nantucket pine moths in the spring may be sufficient to permit young pine trees in infested areas to make most of their normal height growth for the season--which means they may grow as much as 50 percent more than unsprayed trees.

This information is based on the following experience by the Forest Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture in southern Mississippi.

In mid-February 1956, loblolly pine seedlings in Mississippi were sprayed thoroughly with hydraulic equipment. One block of trees was sprayed with 5 percent DDT emulsion, another with 0.5 percent malathion emulsion, and a third block with 0.5 percent gamma BHC (benezene hexachloride) emulsion. These treatments took place before the first seasonal flight of the pine tip moths, and when the sprays were applied the trees were all of approximately the same height, as were unsprayed trees in the same plantation.

Measurements at the end of the growing season showed that seedlings sprayed with BHC were 45 percent taller than the unsprayed pine, those sprayed with malathion were 50 percent taller, and those sprayed with DDT were 60 percent taller.

The Forest Service reports that these tests were particularly severe because only a small part of the plantation was sprayed, and the treated trees were subjected to later attack by moths coming from untreated trees. In fact, during the latter part of the season the treated trees appeared to be as heavily infested as untreated ones. Protection was sufficient, however, to permit the treated trees to make most of their normal growth before reinfestation became severe.

The Nantucket pine moth is the common species of tip moth east of the Mississippi. The larvae are yellowish and about one-half inch long when full grown. There is one generation each spring in the North, two in Central States, and at least four in the South. The Forest Service tests indicate that the first generation is the one which causes most damage.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
IN31We
Resume

MAY 2
DEPARTMENT OF

California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho

Logging Weak and Insect-Infested Trees Is Best Way To Control Pine Bark Beetles

Selective removal of susceptible and infested trees is the best means found so far for protecting ponderosa pine from large-scale attack by the western pine beetle, according to a report from the Forest Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The same method is also effective, says the Forest Service, in reducing damage to Jeffrey pine by the Jeffrey pine beetle.

This method of logging--known in foresters' language as sanitation-salvage cutting--has been practiced for some years by progressive forest owners as well as public agencies. A recent test by the Forest Service in treating recreational forests in southern California underscores the value of sanitation-salvage as a tool in protecting valuable timber stands from the ravages of destructive bark beetles.

Three years ago, the Forest Service began a systematic removal of insect-infested and highly-susceptible trees from a 5,500-acre area of mature pine in San Bernardino National Forest. During the two years prior to the treatment, tree killing caused by bark beetles had averaged about 200 board-feet per acre per year. In 1955, the first year after logging, tree killing in the test area was only 12 board-feet per acre, and in 1956 it was only 15 board-feet per acre. Losses were reduced, therefore, by 94 and 92 percent. These results compare favorably with those obtained in timber-producting forests of northern California.

Recognition and identification of trees susceptible to beetle attack are an established part of pine marking for logging and sale of timber on National Forest land, on Indian tribal lands, and on the holdings of many progressive timber owners, the Forest Service reports. Long experience has shown that susceptible trees are the slow growers--crowded intermediate or suppressed trees, older and overmature trees, and trees lacking normal vigor. Short needles, dying twigs, declining vigor at the top, poor color, and other signs of poor health mark a tree as susceptible to attack by western pine and Jeffrey pine beetles.

Aid in identifying susceptible trees is available from the Forest Service. County agents can advise owners of private woodland about how to obtain such help.

USDA 378 (2-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
IN31We
Reserve

Ala., Ariz., Ark., Calif., Ga., La., Miss., Mo., N. Mex., N. C., Okla., S. C., Tenn., Tex.

Seed Treatment Provides Young Cotton Plants with Armor Against Insects

Nature wraps up within a tiny seed much of what the young plant needs to give it a vigorous start. Science is seeking to supplement Mother Nature's effort by giving cotton seedling an armor against their insect enemies.

Entomologists from the U. S. Department of Agriculture and southern State experiment stations have been testing two chemicals which, applied to cotton seeds, help the young plants resist attack from thrips, aphids, and spider mites for 4 to 6 weeks after they emerge from the soil.

The chemicals, tested on several thousand acres of cotton plants in 1956, also gave fair-to-good control for time against cutworms, the cotton leaf perforator, flea beetles, leaf miners, darkling beetles, false wireworm adults, and the brown cotton leafworm. The effect was less consistent with fleahopper, white-fly, and boll weevil.

Thimet and Bayer 19639 are the commercial names of the two chemicals tested. They are called systemic insecticides because they enter the sap stream and are carried to all parts of the plant. Then insects that feed on the plant are killed.

Thimet and Bayer 19639 are so extremely poisonous that they are not sold alone. But growers can buy seeds that have been treated with them. These treated seeds are mixed with the chemical in a specially designed machine a few days to a few weeks before planting time. Other materials are added to help the insecticide adhere to the seeds and to slowly release them for absorption by the growing plant.

Further work is under way to find methods of application that might extend the insect control to more than 4 to 6 weeks. Systemic insecticides are also being sought for other crops.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
IN31We

Alaska, Colo., Conn., Del., Fla., Hawaii, Idaho, Ill., Ind., Iowa,
Kans., Ky., Me., Md., Mass., Mich., Minn., Mont., Nebr., Nev., N. H., N. J.,
N. Y., N. Dak., Ohio, Oreg., Pa., R. I., S. Dak., Utah, Vt., Va., Wash.,
W. Va., Wisc., Wyo.

Chemical Seed Treatment May Help Farm Crops to Resist Insects

Many wild plants appear to have a natural defense against insect attack --they may be distasteful or injurious in some way to possible predators, or are simply hard to feed upon. Agricultural scientists have been exploring possibilities for supplying some such built-in defense to more susceptible farm crops. And recent experiments with a seed treatment for cotton indicate that they may have found one way to do this.

The "treatment" consists of applying a powerful insecticide to the seeds, one that is released slowly into the surrounding soil as the young plant grows and is absorbed into the sap stream of the plant. Then insects that feed on the plant are killed.

Two chemicals--Thimet and Bayer 19639--were tested on cotton seeds planted over several thousand acres in 1956, with the U. S. Department of Agriculture and 13 State experiment stations in cotton-producing areas cooperating. The treatments helped cotton plants to resist attack from thrips, aphids, and spider mites for 4 to 6 weeks after they emerged from the soil. They also gave fairly good defense for a time against cutworms, the cotton leaf perforater, flea beetles, leaf miners, darkling beetles, false wireworm adults, and the brown cotton leafworm.

The tests worked out sufficiently well that cotton seed treated with these chemicals will be available to growers this year. Tests with other crops will follow and researchers hope to find chemicals which will give more lasting effect. Eventually this type of treatment might replace the more costly and less effective spraying and dusting with insecticides which provide control only so long as they remain on the exterior of a plant.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
IN31We
Reserve

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
MAY 22 1957
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

Standing Pools of Irrigation Water Are Good for Mosquitoes, Bad for Crops

Mosquitoes can breed in any water that stands for 4 or 5 days. And pools in low spots on irrigated fields frequently stand for longer than that. This is fine for the hoards of mosquitoes that rise from the stagnant water to bite livestock, poultry, and farmworkers, leaving discomfort and sometimes disease in their wake. But it's bad irrigation practice--bad for the irrigated crops as well as for the victims of the mosquitoes' bites.

A survey in the Milk River Valley of Montana by the U. S. Public Health Service showed that 90 percent of mosquito breeding on farm land there resulted from irrigation and 70 percent occurred on irrigated fields.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture cooperated with the Health Service in making a study of what could be done about this situation. Irrigation experiments were carried out on an old meadow with a substantial stand of western wheat grass and other native grasses on a compact clay soil. The meadow had not been leveled and it had been the practice there to irrigate more than necessary to insure thorough wetting of the higher spots. This resulted in pooling of excess water on low ground, which killed desirable grasses and provided mosquito breeding places.

In accordance with the usual practice, on part of the ground USDA engineers gave a single irrigation over 2 or 3 weeks, putting on 30 cr more inches of water. Plants used only 19 percent of it, and water stood in low spots for over a month, producing several broods of mosquitoes and killing good grass.

On adjoining plots, they tried three improved practices. They fertilized to build up roots and increase vegetation. They put up borders or dikes for even water distribution. And they irrigated only when the grass had used up about 60 percent of the moisture in the root zone--making 3 to 8 saturations of the soil taking 7 hours or less each and using a total of only 18 inches of water for the entire season.

On the latter plots grass used two-thirds of the water applied. Grass production rose, water waste was cut, and ponds disappeared in less than three days, too little time for mosquitoes to breed and mature.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
IN31We
Reserve

All States

Virus-Free Plants May Be Answer to Lowered Yields In Wheat and Barley

Farmers sometimes say that a crop variety is "running out" when it becomes less productive for no apparent reason. This has happened in previously productive varieties of wheat and barley in some areas.

Scientists in the U. S. Department of Agriculture, knowing there was no genetic foundation for the farmers' explanation, looked for a virus disease which had little or no recognizable symptoms but which was capable of cutting yields. Recent evidence supports their hunch and points to stripe mosaic disease as the cause of the trouble.

Experiments with several commercial varieties of wheat indicate that stripe-mosaic may be cutting yields quite seriously. In Rushmore wheat, for example, an extremely mild strain of the virus was found to be reducing yields by about 30 percent.

To recognize the virus in the absence of outward symptoms, the USDA specialists developed two simple tests for stripe mosaic, a disease known to be widely distributed in barleys throughout the United States and ranging in form from mild to severe. Stripe mosaic had been found in wheat also, but its distribution in this crop and its effect on the plant had not been understood.

The tests developed at Beltsville provide a simple method of identifying plants infected with mild or latent strains of stripe-mosaic, which, unlike most virus diseases, can be carried by seed from one generation to another. It is now possible to select virus-free plants of commercial varieties for use in building up supplies of healthy seed for distribution to growers.

Virus-free plants of several wheat and barley varieties have already been isolated and the Beltsville workers are beginning to increase seed for larger-scale field tests to be made at cooperating State agricultural experiment stations.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
IN31We

All States

Old Food Habits Give Way Slowly to New Food Products

Reserve

Despite some crazy hat styles and such other evidence to the contrary, housewives appear to be a rather conservative group--at least in the grocery store and kitchen.

Analysis of figures gathered by the U. S. Department of Agriculture in a Household Food Consumption Survey, covering food purchases of more than 6,000 families, suggests that it takes some time for new food products to gain widespread acceptance. And this seems to apply even when the new products offer advantages in convenience and work-saving previously not available.

Among the families interviewed, there was wide usage of many prepared "convenience" foods that have been on the market for some time. These include such items as bread and other baked goods, ice cream, frankfurters, lunch meats, canned soup, jellies and jams. Bread, for instance, was purchased by 97 percent of the families during the week they were interviewed, and other baked goods by 86 percent. Ice cream was purchased by 62 percent of the families, lunch meat by 59 percent, canned soup by 50 percent, jellies and jams by 52 percent and frankfurters by 42 percent.

Newer convenience foods, on the other hand, were used by considerably fewer of the families interviewed. Frozen vegetables fared best, being used by 38 percent of the families, and frozen concentrated fruit juices were next with 30 percent usage. Instant coffee was used by 23 percent of the families, cake mixes by 20 percent, frozen fruits by 12 percent, and brown and serve rolls by 10 percent. Nonfat dry milk was used by only 6 percent of the families.

USDA household economists, studying these figures, conclude that there is a tendency to stick to old habits of food consumption. New products are accepted readily by a few, but it takes time to change the food habits of a great many people. Whereas older, established convenience foods claimed 27 percent of the total food budget of the families interviewed, only 4 percent was spent for new easy-to-serve items.

Upper income families made greater use of convenience foods than lower income families, as did city families compared to farm families. But some use of both newer and older products was found among all groups.

USDA 529 (2-57)

U. S. DE[illegible]

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

1.9
In3iWe
Reserve

Special to Extension Editors

All States

New and Better Insect Repellent Will Be Available Shortly

The past few years have seen commercial production of several new insect repellents much superior to the old citronella that our parents used to ward off mosquito bites. Now the Agricultural Research Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has announced that a new and still better one is on the way. It should be available in commercial products this spring.

Diethyl toluamide, tested by USDA entomologists at Orlando, Florida, promises better protection than older repellents against mosquitoes, chiggers, ticks, fleas, and flies. For one thing it is longer lasting--one treatment should give adequate protection for several hours. It is also effective against a wider range of insects than any repellent offered so far. It will not irritate the skin and it can be applied safely to any fabric or fur.

All these things should make diethyl toluamide a valuable aid to farmers, outdoor laborers, and sportsmen as well as to picnickers, hikers and gardners. The chemical will be sold under various commercial names, of course, but information on the label will indicate when diethyl toluamide is present.

Repellents applied to the skin tend to soak in or rub off, and thereby lose their effectiveness. The USDA scientists report that diethyl toluamide stands up well in this respect--hence its longer lasting qualities. And it has a lotion-like consistency which will make it pleasant to use.

To illustrate its superior qualities, diethyl toluamide is more effective than other repellents against many types of mosquitoes, and equal to the best against others. It outperforms other repellents against the stable fly, and is as good as others in repelling deer flies and sand flies. It is the best repellent so far for ticks, and it is outstanding in repelling rat fleas. Cloth treated with the chemical is completely effective in repelling chigger mites.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
In31We

CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
MAY 22 1957
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

Resume

Better Farm Crops Are Resulting from New Scientific Knowledge

Much of the phenomenal progress in agriculture that we have experienced in this country and in this century has been due to scientific breeding of better and more productive crop varieties. But considering future possibilities in this field, we "ain't seen nothing yet," predicts ____________________. (State or local authority)

Future crop varieties will offer advantages for everyone. Improved quality will make them more attractive to the consumer. They will be easier to ship and have better keeping qualities to please the merchant. But they will also be easier to grow--less subject to loss and injury, more efficient in their use of fertilizer and water, and more adapted to modern mechanized farm methods.

Plant breeding is an old science--a recent scientific expedition to Mexico turned up the information that American Indians practiced cross-breeding several thousand years ago--but new tools have been added to old ones to step up progress in this field, according to ____________.

One of these, as might be expected, is a product of the atomic age. It is use of radiation from radio-active materials to step up plant mutations. These are the mysterious changes in inheritable characteristics that take place naturally, but at a slower rate, in both plants and animals. Most mutations are degenerative or harmful, but some give rise to plants with superior qualities. These latter are saved for breeding and the rest discarded. Thus the natural process of evolution is speeded up and controlled to produce better crops and food.

And, harking back to the Indians, cross-breeding is also receiving new emphasis. For some time, plant breeding consisted mainly of looking for superior type plants and breeding them true to produce more plants with the same characteristics. Today's plant breeder visualizes a plant type that he wants and sets out to create it by using all the tools available to him, hybridization included. New scientific knowledge makes it possible for him to cross breedplants which formerly could not be crossed.

Meanwhile, our farmers have a continuing supply of superior new crop varieties. More than 9 acres out of 10 planted to sugar, cotton, and oil crops produce varieties released since 1935. Nearly half the vegetable acreage is planted with new varieties, and three-quarters of the grain acreage. By contrast, 8 out of 10 acres in hay are planted to forage crop varieties available in the early thirties. More work is obviously needed here, says ____________.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

Reserve
1.9
In31We

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
★ MAR 11 1957 ★
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

Markets for Farm Products Change as More Families Become City Dwellers or Suburbanites

American families are continually changing their tastes and habits in eating, and these changes affect markets for various types of farm products, bringing more demand for some types of food and less for others. ______ (State or local authority) said this week that these changes reflect a number of influences such as a general rise in family incomes and new methods of marketing which make new foods and more foods generally available. Another important long term influence, according to ______, has been the movement of people from farms to urban communities and the gradual reduction in what might be described as a purely "farm" population.

A food consumption survey by the U. S. Department of Agriculture covering more than 6,000 families in all parts of the country shows, as previous studies have indicated, that there is a distinct difference between "farm" and "city" eating habits. As more and more people move from farm to city, or become part-time farmers located near population centers, this is bound to affect future markets for farm goods, according to ______.

For one thing, city families showed a general preference for processed foods. Farm families used larger amounts of fresh vegetables than city families, it was found, while processed vegetables--frozen, canned, or dried --appeared in larger quantities on city tables. City families also consumed larger quantities of bakery products and smaller quantities of such commodities as flour and cereals.

In general farm families were using more grain products than city families. This is undoubtedly one of the reasons for a long-term downward trend in consumption of grain. Farm families used over twice as much flour and cereals as city families in the North Central region and nearly three times as much in the South.

As indicated in the above paragraph, regional differences also play a part in deciding how much of various types of food a family will eat.

* Note to Editors: This is another in the series based on the USDA Food Consumption Survey of 1955, as promised in Les Schlup's letter of December 12.

USDA 616 (2-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

Reserve
1.9
In31We

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
★ MAR 11 1957 ★
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

Atomic Radiation May Prolong the Market and Storage Life of Fruits and Vegetables

Atomic radiation, combined with refrigeration and other good storage practices, may be a means of prolonging the time that fruits and vegetables can be kept in good condition after harvest.

Despite all kinds of modern marketing methods and conveniences--refrigeration, rapid transportation, careful handling and packing--large quantities of fruits and vegetables continue to be lost through spoilage at some point after harvest and before they reach the consumer's table. Anything that could put a stop to this waste would benefit everyone from the grower to the ultimate user. It could mean better prices and better products as well.

When radio-active materials first became available for experiments in peacetime uses of atomic energy, there was hope in some quarters that herein lay the magic formula that would spell indefinite preservation of perishable foods. So far this has not proven so. But work carried out by the Agricultural Marketing Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture indicates that radiation may be a useful tool for reducing waste and prolonging the period over which fruits and vegetables can be kept in good condition.

Radiation will successfully destroy the organisms that cause decay in fruits and vegetables, but when used in sufficient quantities to accomplish this, it also has bad effects upon the product treated. Lesser amounts retard rot and decay, but do not completely eliminate it. The problem is to find the amount of radiation which will have maximum effect on the decay organisms without hurting the fruit or vegetable. A delicate balance exists between the two.

Tests by USDA specialists have been aimed at stopping or delaying the development of such common diseases as gray mold on strawberries and grapes, Rhizopus rot on strawberries, brown rot on peaches, and blue mold on apples and citrus fruits.

Combining radiation and refrigeration more than doubled the storage life of fresh strawberries. Tests on Jonathan apples showed that proper dosages of radiation would reduce development of blue mold without harming the fruit. On citrus fruits, the results so far have been less promising--radiation reduced or retarded the growth of blue mold, but it seemed to increase susceptability to black rot infection.

Previous research by the National Academy of Sciences has shown that irradiated foods do not become radioactive and are perfectly safe for human consumption. If convenient and effective methods can be worked out, this may someday become an accepted commercial practice.

USDA 617 (2-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
IN31We
Resume

U. S.
ULTURE

Ark., Miss., N. C., S. C., Ga., Ala., Fla.

Blanching of Leaves Is Not Serious in Lee Soybean and Other Southern Varieties

A temporary blanching of the leaves in Lee soybeans has alarmed some growers of this variety during the few years since it was introduced in 1954.

____________________ reports that general experience so far
(State or local authority)
indicates that this condition--called chlorosis by agronomists--has no serious effect upon yield or quality and growers should not hesitate to plant the improved Lee variety, or others, on this account. Ogden and Roanoke varieties also are susceptible to chlorosis.

The effects of chlorosis are rather spectacular, with yellow or whitish leaves developing at the top of the plant, in contrast to the normal green of the older leaves below. But the condition clears up as rapidly as it appears, lasting only a week or so in plants about 6 to 8 weeks old.

Agronomists from the U. S. Department of Agriculture and State experiment stations who have studied chlorosis in soybeans found that it was caused by several strains of nitrogen-fixing bacteria which are generally beneficial in their effect upon the plant. The soil itself and other things present in the environment may play a part.

Lee is resistant to several important diseases; it is nonshattering; and it is very productive. These characteristics continue to make it a very good variety for southern producers, says ________________.

USDA 691 (3-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
IN 31We

MAY 22

U. S. D

Ala., Ark., Del., Fla., Ga., Ky., La., Md., Miss., N. C., Okla., S. C., Tenn., Tex., Va., and W. Va.

USDA Survey points to South as Fastest Growing Food Market

The South is very important in the U. S. food picture because it contains the fastest growing food markets in the country.

This fact has been pointed up by a recent nationwide survey of family food consumption carried out by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The study was undertaken to learn how much and what kind of food is consumed regularly by American families, and how eating habits differ among families in relation to their size, income level, and the region and type of community in which they live.

Though almost one-third of the country's population lives in the South (in States ranging from Texas to Delaware), this area accounted for only one-fourth of the U. S. market for food in 1955, the survey showed. But changes that tend to increase expenditures for food--and therefore to increase food markets--are occurring faster in the South than elsewhere. This spells expanding markets and good news for farmers and food industries that supply this area.

One of the changes taking place in the South is rising family income levels. Average money income has been lower here than in other parts of the country, USDA analysts noted, because a greater proportion of the people have lived on farms or in rural, non-farm areas, and rural families tend to have lower incomes than city families. As the population of the South is becoming more urbanized, and industrialized income levels are rising to compare with those in other parts of the country. And as incomes rise, expenditures for food also rise.

The general movement of population to the city is in itself an influence on family eating habits, as shown by the USDA survey. City families produce less of their own food and eat more food moved through commercial marketing channels. They also eat more prepared and processed foods. Consequently their expenditures for food are greater than the amount spent by farm families.

Some differences in eating patterns are due to regional traditions. How these may change with time is harder to predict, but accessibility to modern food markets and new food products will doubtlessly have some effect.

Note to Editors: This is another in the series on the Survey of Household Food Consumption prepared specially for Extension Editors, as promised in Les Schlup's letter of December 12, 1956.

USDA 692 (3-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
IN31We

All States

Decrease in Cattle Numbers Is Not Expected to Last Long

The U. S. cattle population appears to have entered a downward swing this year typical of cattle cycles, reports ______________________ (State or local authority). But the downward drift is not expected to last as long as it has in most previous cycles.

___________ explains that the number of cattle on U. S. farms usually runs in cycles--with numbers falling over a period of years and then rising again to new heights.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture recently reported a reduction in cattle population for the first time this year, after a 7-year upswing carried the total number to an all time high of almost 97 million head. The reduction applies to all classes of animals, with milk cows down 1 percent, calves down 1 percent, beef cattle down 2 percent, and the number of steers reduced 4 percent.

Most of the decrease has occurred in the Great Plains region stretching from the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico and the Rio Grande. Drouth that plagued this area explains much of the change, but other influences also were at play, marking the downward trend as part of a cattle cycle. In some areas cattle numbers had reached the limit of grazing capacity. And, in general, lower prices for cattle have discouraged producers, tending to reduce their cash expenditures for cattle production.

Cattle cycles usually continue downward for a few years, and this one will probably do the same, says _____________. But present prospects seem to indicate that the decrease this time may be slower, smaller and perhaps shorter than in previous cycles.

The basis for this reasoning is that cattle numbers are stable in the Midwest and the Southeast, areas which now account for a greater percentage of the total cattle production than they formerly did. Also demand for beef is continuing strong, and there are huge reserve supplies of cattle feed.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
IN 3i We
Reserve

U. S. DEP

All States

U. S. Food Needs Are Changing

The man who makes out well in farming these days is more than just "a son of the soil," says ________________. He is a businessman as well as an efficient producer, alert to change and with the resourcefulness to adjust his production to present day trends and plan for future developments.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture reports, according to __________, that U. S. food needs and demands are changing as our way of life changes, our knowledge grows, and our incomes continue upward. The great challenge to American agriculture in the future will be to provide the quality and variety of farm products that our people want and need.

Our society is becoming increasingly industrialized, point out the USDA experts who have been studying present trends, and the fact that we are substituting machines for muscles in nearly every activity of human endeavor affects our food requirements. We are also increasing our knowledge of human nutritional needs at various ages and the value of different foods in meeting these needs. Increased incomes, too, make it more and more possible for more and more people to purchase the foods that adequately meet their needs and preferences.

In the light of current trends, the USDA experts foresee greater requirements for livestock products, tomatoes, leafy green and yellow vegetables, and fruits. They estimate that by 1975 there will be a need for increases in these commodities ranging from 40 to 45 percent over the 1951-53 production averages. On the other hand, there will be less need per person for grain products and potatoes, but increases in population can be expected to at least maintain our present use of these latter products.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
IN3iWe
Reserve

Utah, Nevada, Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, California, Oregon, Colorado

Insects from Europe and Asia May Be Used to Fight Halogeton

An exploring scientist from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, G. B. Vogt, has found over a hundred different insects that feed upon the sheep-and-cattle-killing weed, halogeton, in its native habitats--arid sections of Europe and Asia. These insects will soon be tested as a possible means of controlling the weed in this country, reports the USDA.

Some 9 million acres of western rangeland are now infested with halogeton, according to the Department. This is a marked increase over the 2 million acres infested in 1950. The weed was first found and identified in this country in Elko County, Nevada, in 1934, but not until 1942 were its dangerous effects recognized.

Halogeton contains large quantities of soluble salts of oxalic acid, poisonous substances that combine with calcium in the blood stream. Small quantities of the weed may be fatal unless eaten with other feed. (A half pound, dry weight, is sufficient to kill a mature ewe.) Death results from a rapid lowering of the blood-calcium concentration, causing weakness, listlessness and drowsiness--symptoms similar to those of "milk fever."

Chemical controls for this weed are too expensive to be practical. And reseeding and good range management only minimize destructive effects, though animals are less apt to eat the blue-green halogeton when other forage is available. An insect that eats the weed and does not harm other more desirable plants may be the best means to check this spreading pest.

Both the foreign insects and halogeton plants will be studied, reports USDA, to determine the period of growth when the insect is most destructive and the plant most susceptible. And, since halogeton is closely related to sugar beets and spinach, the insects will also be tested against these and other plants of economic importance to make sure that any insect used for control will not be destructive.

USDA 921 (3-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special
to Extension
Editors

1.9
IN31We
Reserve

Ark., Calif., Colo., Conn., Del., Idaho, Ill., Ind., Iowa, Kan., Ky., Me., Md., Mass., Mich., Minn., Mo., Mont., Nebr., N. H., N. J., N. Mex., N. Y. N. C., Ohio, Oreg., Pa., R. I., Tenn., Utah, Vt., Va., Wash., W. Va., Wis.

Sunlight Helps to Make Apples Red

A practice followed by some apple producers of spreading apples out on the ground to expose them to sunlight after harvest has proven to be scientifically sound as well as practical, reports ____________________ (State or local authority). The idea that sunlight increases the red in apples, one of the qualities that affects grading and price, is not an old wives' tale, as many people have thought.

Scientists from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, looking into this matter, found that there is a definite relationship between light and the amount of red in apples of a variety capable of "blushing."

Jonathan, Rome Beauty and Arkansas apples were placed under lights of varying colors and wave-lengths, ranging from red to blue-violet. Each variety turned red fastest when exposed to red light--which, of course, is available in sunlight. This light apparently influences the development of anthocyanins, which are responsible for the red pigment.

The percentage of red skin color is one of the factors which enters into grading of apples by USDA standards. But when apples are spread in the sun to increase their red coloring, care should be exercised, warns __________, not to leave them too long or their keeping quality may be impaired.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
IN31We

All States

Reserve

New Plant Growth Stimulator Will Interest Ornamental Garden Enthusiasts

If you are the adventurous sort of gardener who likes to try something new, perhaps you will enjoy experimenting with a plant growth stimulator now available on the market, ______________ says. Sold under at least half a dozen different trade names, and in various concentrated forms of power or liquid, the ingredient to look for is gibberellic acid.

This substance, produced by a fungus grown in a liquid culture in somewhat the same manner as antibiotics are made, is capable of stimulating both growth and flowering in many plants. Experiments by the U. S. Department of Agriculture have shown it to be particularly effective for speeding the growth of young trees and slow-growing ornamentals and for increasing both the size and flowering of many annual and perennial plants. Many house plants respond to its effect and are relatively easy to experiment with.

The material is usually applied as a spray. Commercial products containing gibberellic acid will be accompanied by directions for mixing and application.

The USDA scientists who have worked with gibberellic acid stress that its use is still highly experimental, and therefore its effect on individual plants cannot be accurately predicted. Some plants are more sensitive to it and respond much more quickly than others, and rather spectacular results can sometimes be achieved. But using too much may produce effects opposite to those desired, such as spindly growth, weakness and lack of flowers. In general, it is well to be on the conservative side in using this stimulator until you are able to observe the reaction.

Gibberellic acid is not recommended as yet for use on edible crops, and it has not been cleared by the Food and Drug Administration for use on edible plants for sale. Since extra growth and flowering call for increased nutrients, a treated plant will probably need larger applications of fertilizer and more water than normally, say the USDA scientists. Gibberellic acid itself is not a plant food.

Note to Editors: This article has been prepared especially for your use. In about two weeks a general release on this same subject, but in a different form, will be released by USDA. You may wish to check this with your specialist in horticulture for local application.

USDA 991 (3-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special
to Extension
Editors

1.9
IN31We
Reserve

All States

Fertilize Trees to Push Growth or Increase Vigor

When, how often, or how much should I fertilize my shade and ornamental trees? These are questions frequently asked by ____________ homeowners.
(State or area)

Answers depend upon the tree and the conditions under which it is growing, according to ____________, but there are a few general rules that can serve as a guide.

Fertilizer can be used to push the growth of a young tree where quick development and shade are desired. In transplanting a young tree, fertilizer should be used sparingly and should never be placed where it will come in direct contact with the roots, ____________ cautions. But once the tree has established itself, fertilizer will help it to grow vigorously toward its mature size.

If a tree is as large as you want it and it appears to be growing healthily, there is no need to fertilize it, says ____________. On the other hand, when a tree has been injured or attacked by insects or disease, or if it shows symptoms of a general loss of vigor such as sparse foliage, light green or yellowed leaves, or die-back of twig tips, fertilizer can be used to help the tree recover. A general unhealthy condition may indicate that a tree is not receiving sufficient nturients.

As to how much fertilizer to give a tree, 2 pounds of a complete chemical fertilizer for each inch of trunk thickness (diameter) is a good general rule. This is a minimum recommendation and more can be used in many situations. With newer-type concentrated nutrients, follow directions of the manufacturer, says ____________. Generally, less fertilizer is needed where the tree grows in a sandy loam, more if it grows in a heavy clay soil.

The best method of application is to place the fertilizer in holes drilled around the tree, a foot or more deep, a foot apart, and about half way between the trunk and the farthest branch spread. Or the fertilizer can be spread over the ground beneath the branch spread and then soaked deeply into the soil. For most trees, spring is a good season to fertilize.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
IN31We

All States

In Selecting Shade and Ornamental Trees, Seek Local Advice

Local tree experts are the best source of information in finding the right tree or trees to plant on your property, suggests ____________. Since trees are the longest lived of all the ornamental and useful plants available for enhancement of home grounds, it pays to select them carefully. A tree can be a lifetime pleasure or a costly problem and nuisance.

Most cities have a park superintendent, a city forester, or some other official who can give advice on trees that will do well under local conditions and will meet the needs that you have in mind. Other good sources of information are county agricultural agents, U. S. or State forest service offices, and local botanical gardens. Reputable nursery men and commercial tree services also are often willing to give general advice about trees.

One common mistake, says ____________, is to plant a tree in a location or climate to which it is not adapted. A tree that grows very attractively in other areas that you visit may be grown only with great difficulty where you live, or it may not be able to survive at all. For this reason it is best to buy trees from nearby nurseries, or, if you bring them or have them shipped from a distant place, consult local authorities first to make sure they will grow in your area.

Another thing to consider according to ____________, is maintenance cost--some trees are more susceptible than others to attacks by diseases and insects and to storm and wind damage. Some trees are better able than others to withstand "city" conditions such as fumes and sidewalks or impacted soil. If you want to plant a tree near sewer or water lines, it is best to avoid willows and other species with roots that tend to clog drains. Oaks are among the least troublesome in this respect.

If you wish to combine shade trees and lawn, it is wise to avoid trees with low growing branches and deep shade or with a great many surface roots that will compete aggressively with grass for water and nutrients.

Size and rapidity of growth are other important features to consider, says __________. A low rambling house with telephone and electric lines may make large shade trees less desirable for your front lawn. Small ornamental trees adapted to your area may grow faster and be more attractive. Local tree experts can advise you about good varieties, how to plant and care for them, and under what conditions they will thrive.

USDA 1026 (4-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
IN31We
Reserve

All States

It Pays to Shop Carefully for Landscape Plantings

The plant nursery or roadside garden shop is no place for impulse buying. You need only consider the overgrown jungles, the out-of-place-plants, and other mistakes in the gardens around your own community to see the sense in this bit of advice from ______________.

Warm spring breezes and sunshine draw homeowners into the garden as inevitably as the sap rising in the trees. Then, just as inevitably, comes that old urge to improve the appearance of the place. All to the good--most homes could stand a little improving. And one way to do it is to plant trees, shrubs and flowers that complement both house and garden and provide an attractive setting for whatever summer activities you plan.

But the next impulse, all too often, is to rush off to the nearest nursery or garden shop and stock up with whatever happens to meet the eye. Here are some things ______________ suggests to help you avoid disappointment and financial loss in buying nursery plants.

First, consider the location in which you wish to plant. Think about the size the plant or plants should be at maturity, whether you want green all year round or only part of the year, whether you prefer broad leaves or needles, dark green, light green or something in between, a growing-up or a spreading-out effect. If you would like flowering shrubs, consider colors that will look best in your garden and what season you would like them to bloom.

Other important considerations are sunlight, soil and drainage. How many hours does the sun hit that spot? Is the soil sandy and well drained, or is it heavy clay and inclined to be moist or very dry?

A reputable nurseryman can help you to find the right plant for the right place if you share this information with him. He can also guide you in overcoming minor soil difficulties which may make all the difference between healthy and sickly plants. Or you can read the labels that are provided by careful nurseries to guide the buyer in avoiding costly and discouraging mistakes.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
IN31We
Resume

Penn., W. Va., Va., Md., Del., N. J.

Identical Twin Beef Calves are Sought for USDA Research

Beef cattle producers who find identical twins among their calves this spring have an opportunity to contribute to research which should be of great benefit to their industry, says ______________________.
(State or local authority)

Scientists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture are seeking to buy as many as 36 pairs of identical twins of any beef breed for nutrition and breeding studies being carried out at the Department's Beltsville, Md., agricultural research center. They want purebred, grade, or crossbred animals of beef type, less than 5 months old. To keep shipping costs down animals are being sought within a radius of approximately 200 miles from Washington, D. C.

Producers who are willing to sell twin calves that meet these specifications should send a sales offer to E. J. Warwick, Head, Cattle Research Section, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, Md. An inspector will be sent to check the calves before any offer is accepted.

Identical twins are those which develop from a single germ cell, explains ____________. They are always of the same sex, look very much alike, and react in much the same way. Characteristic markings may be repeated on the same or opposite sides of the two calves--where right and left side markings are reversed, the resemblance is described as a mirror likeness. Identical twins are rare, but because of their similar physical reactions they are very useful for research purposes.

For several years the Department of Agriculture has been making nutrition studies by comparing the growth response of identical twins raised on different rations. They now hope to expand these experiments to learn the effects upon breeding performance as well as growth of various roughage and concentrate rations.

"Sale of twin calves for this work will net the owner a fair market price as well as the satisfaction of contributing to worthwhile research being carried out for his benefit," declares __________.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9

IN31We

Reserve

All States

Wool Payment Applications Must Be Filed by April 30

Applications for payments under the 1956 wool price incentive program must be filed with County ASC Committees by April 30, ______________
(State or local
__________ reminds _________ producers.
authority) (area)

These applications should apply to any wool sold between April 1, 1956, and March 31, 1957. Wool sold after March 31 will be eligible for 1957 program payments to be made next year, says ______________.

The applications must be accompanied by documents showing the exact net proceeds from wool sales. Marketing charges for freight or other services should be deducted. All phases of the transaction must have been completed by the March 31 deadline.

Payments on these applications will be made some time this summer after the average price per pound received by U. S. producers is known according to __________. The basis for payment will be the same as last year, with producers receiving a percentage of their own price--the higher the price received, the higher the payment. Percentage paid will reflect the difference between the average price received by all producers and the 62-cents-per-pound incentive level. This system was provided for in the National Wool Act of 1954, passed by Congress to stimulate wool production toward a 300-million-pound national goal.

Payments last year amounted to $44.90 for every $100 producers earned from wool sales.

USDA 1063 (4-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
IN31We

All States

Reserve

Heavy Clay Soil Frequently Presents Problem in Establishing Lawn Trees

Many kinds of trees will not stand bad drainage. For this reason home-owners frequently have difficulty in establishing trees in areas where the soil consists largely of heavy clay subsoil turned up in the building of their houses, says ____________________.
(State or local authority)

Lightening heavy clay soil around a tree's root zone by addition of leaf mold, peat moss, compost or other organic matter, when planting, may not help if a drainage problem exists, according to __________. In fact this may only make matters worse. If water cannot penetrate the surrounding clay, it may gather around the tree roots and be trapped there. This is like planting a tree in a bucket full of water, and few trees will survive such treatment.

A good way to test for bad drainage is to dig a hole about 18 inches deep in the spot where you are planning to plant a tree. Fill the hole with water and allow it to stand for 36 hours. If water remains in the hole at the end of that time without replenishment from rain or other sources, drainage is unsatisfactory.

Here are several things ______________ suggests to remedy this situation. Perhaps the surface of the ground can be regraded to encourage better runoff. Or, if there is a lower surface level nearby, drain tile can be laid to carry water from the bottom of the planting hole to a lower spot where it will run away. This, of course, requires digging a trench to lay the drain tile--a difficult job if the distance is great. Another method, which may be better in some instances, is to dig the planting hole somewhat deeper than necessary to accommodate the roots and fill the bottom with a generous layer of coarse gravel. This will allow room for water to stand where it will not touch the tree roots.

If surface run-off is slow, soil should be mounded around the base of the tree to keep water from gathering there. And sometimes it is better to fill the hole with the same dirt that was taken out so as not to encourage standing water in the tree's root zone.

USDA 1091 (4-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
IN31We
Reserve

Ala., Ark., Conn., Del., Fla., Ga., Ill., Ind., Kan., Ky., La., Md., Mass., Miss., Mo., N.J., N.Y., N.C., Ohio, Pa., R.I., S.C., Tenn., Va., W.Va.

Chances of Survival Are Poor For Wild Dogwood Transplanted to the Home Grounds

Nursery-grown dogwood trees are a far safer bet for transplanting on the home grounds than are trees dug from the wild, according to __________.

Dogwood is one of the loveliest Eastern ornamental trees. Naturally many people are interested in planting it around their homes. But every year, thousands of these beautiful trees are lost because they are difficult to grow when transplanted from a wooded area to the average home grounds, says ______________________.

In its natural situation, dogwood usually grows in the "understory" of a forest where it is shaded and sheltered by larger hardwood trees. It spreads it roots broadly through the topsoil in search of moisture and nutrients. In transplanting, this loose root system is usually badly damaged, and the tree is forced to adjust itself to heavier soil and more sunlight than it is accustomed to. It also is likely to be planted somewhat deeper than it was, and the bark may be injured in the move, opening a beachhead for disease organisms. All these things make survival difficult.

The nursery-grown dogwood has been raised in a situation more comparable to the home grounds. Its roots have been clipped back to make them develop in a more compact form than wild dogwood roots. Balled and burlapped, these trees can be moved without damage, and chances of survival are many times greater. Care should be taken, however, to avoid injuring the bark and to plant the tree at the same depth as it grew in the nursery. Burlap need not be removed in transplanting, but any waterproof covering should be discarded.

Under most circumstances, ____________________ recommends nursery-grown dogwood as a better investment for home plantings. Though the wild tree may be free, its death means wasted time and effort and its beauty is lost from the wild site where it thrived.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
IN31We
Reserve

All States

Dollar Value of U. S. Farm Real Estate Continues Climb to New Levels

_____________ farm real estate values rose (or fell) _____ percent*
(State)
in the year ending November 1956, according to a report on current developments in the farm real estate market just released by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

This compares with a national increase of 4 percent, bringing average U. S. farm land values to a new record high--43 percent above the 1947-49 level.

Decreases in farm land values during 1956 were confined to areas severely affected by drought, according to the report. Colorado showed the largest decline from a year earlier--5 percent. Nevada farm values were down 4 percent, and in Wyoming and Kansas values fell 2 percent. But price of farmland in Oklahoma and Texas rose 4 and 5 percent respectively, despite drought conditions there.

Elsewhere, State average farm values increased by 3 percent or more except in New York, where they were up 2 percent. Increases of 5 percent or more were shown for 24 Central, Southern and far Western States. In Florida, farmland values were up 18 percent, the largest increase recorded for any State.

The supply of farm land for sale continued at the low level of recent years. The most active buyers, especially in wheat and central Corn Belt areas, were farmers seeking additional land to enlarge their present operations. In other States, particularly Florida and California and along the Gulf Coast, urban and industrial expansion has increased demand for part-time farms and rural residences. The Soil Bank program is a recent development that will influence the market for farmland, but its full effects are not yet apparent, according to the USDA report.

*Note to Editors: Percentage change for your State is shown on map (Figure 1) on inside of front page of the attached report.

Attachment

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
IN31We
Reserve

All States

Watch Out for Witchweed; Farmers Asked to Help Prevent Spread of Destructive Plant

The U. S. Department of Agriculture and State plant regulatory agencies are looking to farmers for help in locating and stamping out any new infestations of witchweed. This is a destructive parasite of corn, sorghum, sugarcane and other plants mostly of the grass family, which recently appeared in the United States.

______________________ describes witchweed as a harmless-
(State or Local Authority)
looking plant usually about 8 inches high with small reddish flowers and slightly hairy leaves. Found last year in several counties of both North Carolina and South Carolina, this is believed to be the first time that it has invaded the Western Hemisphere. But witchweed can easily spread by means of its tiny seeds that have the ability to remain dormant but alive for a number of years, says ______________. One witchweed plant can produce up to half a million seed.

Witchweed attaches itself to the roots of susceptible plants and absorbs moisture and food from them to support its own growth, explains ___________. Affected plants appear to be suffering from severe drought --they are stunted, yellowish and wilted. Corn yields in some infested fields in the Carolinas were complete failures in 1956.

Here are some suggestions from the Department of Agriculture about how to prevent witchweed from spreading to new areas in this country:

Look for a weed that answers the description of witchweed, especially if corn, sorghum or grasses show unexplainable stunting. The weed would be growing very close to affected plants. Get in touch with your county agricultural agent if you think you have found witchweed growing in your vicinity. He can arrange for positive identification and can suggest measures for control. Do not move witchweed plants or seed from your field, since by doing so you could easily spread the pest.

As a preventive measure, do not bring or ship hay, nursery plants, bulbs or root crops from an infested area. Even farm machinery or equipment, or used boxes and crates can carry the tiny seeds. Such equipment should be thoroughly cleaned before used if brought from an area in which witchweed is growing.

Up to this time, witchweed has been found only in Bladen, Columbus, Cumberland, and Robeson Counties in North Carolina, and Dillon, Horry, Marion, and Marlboro Counties in South Carolina.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
IN 31We
Reserve

All States

Proper Mowing Helps in Maintaining A Good Lawn

Proper mowing is more important to good lawn care than many people realize. Under average conditions, mowing and fertilizing are probably the most important elements in encouraging the growth of permanent lawn grasses and discouraging undesirable weeds, according to ____________ (State or local authority).

It makes no difference what kind of mower you use--hand mower, power reel mower, or rotary-type power mower--but it should be sharp enough to cut the grass cleanly without bruising and tearing the leaves. Rotary mower blades require frequent sharpening, which can be done with a steel file. On reel type mowers both the cutting edge of the bedknife and the reel blades should be sharp, and the reel should be set close enough against the bedknife to assure a clean cut.

Cool season grasses such as bluegrass and fescues should be mowed to a height of about 2 inches--never less than 1½ inches.* Closer mowing, especially in hot weather, will weaken or even kill these grasses, opening the way for invasion by weeds and crabgrass. Crabgrass requires lots of sun and its germination and growth is retarded by taller-growing permanent grasses.

Grasses that spread by runners and stolons or that make their maximum growth in warm weather and bent grasses** require closer mowing. Bermudagrass should be cut to a height of 5/8 inch or less to maintain fine-quality turf. Other warm-season grasses such as zoysia, centipedegrass, carpetgrass and St. Augustinegrass should be mowed to a height of about 1 inch.

(over)

All mowers can be adjusted for height of cut, but the means of adjustment depends upon the type of mower. On most rotary mowers, height of cut is fixed by adjusting the wheels in holes or slots on the mower frame. On reel-type mowers, adjustment of the roller usually determines the height of cut. Adjustments should always be made and checked on a flat surface such as a concrete walk or floor.

Whatever the height of your lawn, frequent mowing is important to avoid cutting off too much top at one time, according to ____________. Too heavy a cut is a shock to grass plants which weakens them and slows their growth. Also, if a small amount of topgrowth is removed at one time, the clippings can be left to disintegrate and add beneficial organic matter to the soil. Heavy clippings should be removed or they will smother the grass.

Cool season grasses should be fertilized in the early spring and in the early fall when they are making their maximum growth. Fertilizing in the summer may only stimulate weeds and crabgrass. Warm season grasses benefit from small applications of fertilizer throughout the summer months.

---

* Change this to one inch in far northern States.

** Except possibly for mention of zoysia and bent grasses, this paragraph and the last sentence of the article can be omitted in most northern States.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
In31We

All States

Combination Rose Treatments Should Control Mites, Insects, and Fungi

Gardeners who are shopping for an "all-purpose" rose spray or dust should make sure that the one they buy contains chemicals that will control mites, insects and fungus diseases. This suggestion comes from ______________________ who says the best way to find whether the product
(State or local authority)
you are buying will do a complete job is to read the information on the label.

A number of sprays and dusts containing a combination of chemicals are now available in garden supply stores. These combination treatments are popular with rose growers because they simplify the task of protecting a favorite flower from its numerous enemies. But to be considered "all-purpose" for roses, a product should contain materials that are effective against all three major types of rose pests.

Zineb, maneb, ferbam, captan or a copper-sulfur combination will control fungus diseases such as blackspot. (Neither copper nor sulfur alone is very efficient, but the two work well together.) Mites are controlled with aramite or malathion. And the insecticides most likely to be found in rose dusts and sprays are DDT, lindane and malathion. The buyer would be wise to check the label, says __________, to make sure that there is at least one chemical for each type of pest he expects to control.

Dusts and sprays are equally effective, according to ____________. With either type it is necessary to repeat treatments every week or two weeks throughout the growing season to maintain control. Rain washes chemicals off the leaves and encourages fungus growth and spread, so weekly treatment is wise in wet weather. Every two weeks may be frequent enough in dry weather unless insects are particularly active.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9 In31We

Reserve

AUG 2 1957
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

We Eat Better But Some Are Still Short on Calcium and Vitamin C, Survey Shows

Approximately 3 out of 10 American families are not getting sufficient calcium to meet recommended nutritional standards. (Milk is the principal source of calcium.) And some families eat less vitamin C than they should--the nutrient obtained from fruits and vegetables, especially citrus fruits.

But on the whole, Americans are doing quite well nutritionwise. A few weak spots, affecting a relatively small proportion of our population, were revealed by a survey of Household Food Consumption carried out by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Statistics about foods actually consumed by 6,000 U. S. families during one week in 1955 are still being analyzed to learn more about current food habits, how they are changing in comparison with earlier studies, and how they are affected by such influences as income, occupation and place of residence.

Department food economists calculated the number of calories and the amounts of eight essential nutrients obtained by families studied from the food they bought. Sufficient foods were brought into most homes to provide more than amounts recommended for all the nutrients, but not all households came up to the recommendations for all nutrients. In addition to the families getting too little calcium and one household in four getting insufficient vitamin C, some households were short on vitamin A and the B vitamins--riboflavin, thiamine, and niacin. Relatively few were short on iron or protein.

In general there has been a great improvement over diets during the depression years, as they were shown in a large-scale survey in 1936. Whereas one third of the diets studied then were considered "poor," only 1 in 10 of the households recently studied had a poor diet by 1936 standards. Much of the change is due to enrichment of grain products such as bread and flour, and consequent greater consumption of the three B vitamins. Higher incomes also have had a favorable effect on diets, as well as better marketing and transportation practices that make a greater variety of food available to most American families. Education, too, has played a part, making more people conscious of all the basic foods the body needs for good health.

One interesting side-note revealed by the survey: farm families have more than city families of all nutrients except two important ones---vitamin A found in dark green and deep yellow vegetables, and the citrus-fruit vitamin C. These two are most likely to be short among farm people.

Note to Editors: This is another in the series of releases on the Survey of Household Food Consumption prepared specially for Extension Editors, as promised in Les Schlup's letter.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

1.9
In 3/We

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special
to Extension
Editors

Reserve

AUG
U. S.

Conn., Del., Fla., Ga., Ill., Ind., Iowa, Ky., La., Maine, Md., Mass., Mich., Minn., Miss., Mo., N.H., N.J., N.Y., N.C., Ohio, Pa., R.I., S.C., S.Dak., Tenn., Tex., Vt., Va., W.Va., and Wisc.

Airplane Sprays Fight Foe of Eastern Forest Trees

The largest aerial spraying program ever undertaken in the United States is being launched this spring in several northeastern States in an effort to wipe out an insect that, if allowed to spread, would threaten U. S. forest trees all the way from Maine to the Ozarks.

The object of this campaign, according to ____________, is the gypsy moth. This insect has been causing several million dollars worth of damage each year over a 38-million-acre area in nine northeastern States. In its caterpillar stage of development, it devours the leaves of a wide variety of trees, mainly oak, poplar, willow, birch, and apple, but also to a lesser degree, cherry, hickory, gum trees, and even evergreens. It is capable of defoliating entire forests, killing many trees and creating conditions favorable to further damage by fires and floods.

A large part of $5 million raised by State and Federal control agencies will be used this year to spray about three million acres of forest land in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York with a light oil solution of DDT. This will push the pest back from the border areas of its infestation and pave the way for eventual eradication. Except for mop-up operations, spraying next year is expected to move north and east to further reduce the infested zone.

Spraying started around April 15 when the moth eggs began to hatch and will continue until sometime in the latter part of June, says ____________________, depending upon weather conditions. Both large and small planes are being used, all piloted by experienced private operators under Government contract.

The gypsy moth was introduced into Massachusetts in 1869 when it escaped from an experimental laboratory where it was being used for crossbreeding with silkworms. For 85 years it was confined to a relatively small area in New England and eastern New York. Hurricanes in 1848 carried caterpillars to many new areas and since then it has spread with alarming speed--even appearing in a small area in Michigan in 1954. The Michigan infestation was wiped out in 1955 by insecticidal sprays.

Wind is a principal means of spreading the insect, according to __________. Federal and State quarantines regulate transportation from infested areas of materials that may carry eggs or larvae of the moth.

Note to Editors: Pictures of the gypsy moth, defoliated trees, and spraying operations can be obtained from the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
In 31We

Reserve

AUG 2 1957

All States

Tourist Restrictions Against Entry of Foreign Plant and Animal Materials Protect U. S. Food Supplies

"Are you one of the thousands of Americans who plan to travel overseas this summer, or over the border into Mexico or Canada?" asks ____________________. (State or local authority) If so, you can save yourself trouble and help to protect your country's food supply by refraining from bringing back foreign agricultural materials such as fruit, vegetables, plants, and animal products, he suggests.

Greatly stepped up travel in recent years has increased the danger of introduction into this country of plant and animal pests and diseases which can threaten domestic crops and livestock, ____________________ explains. The Bureau of Customs cooperates with the U. S. Department of Agriculture in inspecting the personal effects of all incoming visitors and tourists at border, sea, and air ports to intercept such unwelcome immigrants. Last year, plant pests alone were intercepted more than 17,000 times--insects over 11,000 times and plant diseases almost 6,000 times.

Some kinds of plant material are definitely prohibited; that is, they cannot be brought in under any circumstances. Others may be imported after proper inspection or treatment. If you have some definite reason and plan to bring back plants or plant materials, you can save yourself time and trouble by writing ahead of time to the Plant Quarantine Division, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., for information and permits, according to ________________.

Because of serious animal diseases which exist in many parts of the world, entry of fresh meat products for the most part is prohibited, and requirements for cooked and cured meats are so specialized that it is practically impossible for the average tourist to meet them. Animal products imported commercially must comply with very careful restrictions, and the same is true for plant material such as bulbs and plants.

Prohibited materials are seized by inspectors at ports of entry and destroyed unless they are immediately returned to the country of origin. This may seem arbitrary to the returning tourist who innocently carries a few pieces of fruit, a small amount of meat, or a plant that has caught his fancy. But losses from plant and animal pests and diseases in the United States runs into billions of dollars annually, and these would be multiplied if care were not taken to exclude new ones.

In one case, 293 larvae of the Mexican fruit fly were found in one piece of fruit carried from Mexico by a returning tourist. An outbreak in Florida last year of the Mediterranean fruit fly, one of the world's most destructive fruit pests, is believed to have originated in a similar way.

The inspector at the border is carrying out his duty to protect both consumers and producers in this country from the high costs of plant and animal pests and diseases, says ____________________. You can ease his job and speed your way through customs by leaving behind agricultural products of a prohibited nature.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

1.9
IN31We

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

Reserve

AUG
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

Summer Camps and Clubs Can Now Offer More Milk to Children at Reduced Prices

More of America's abundant milk supplies will be used this summer to improve the diets of our future citizens, reports ________________________.
(State or local authority)

The special milk program which has made more milk available to school children at reduced prices during the past two years has now been extended to include summer camps and recreation centers, according to ______________.

A wide variety of nonprofit institutions offering recreational or guidance programs to children are now eligible to receive partial reimbursement for extra milk served to children in their care. In __________, this
(State

program designed to reduce surplus milk production by improving the diets of growing children is administered by ________________.* Information about the program and how to arrange for participation can be obtained by writing to ______________, says ________________.

The special milk program was established as a constructive means of using up milk surpluses. The U. S. Department of Agriculture reimburses participating schools and other institutions for part of the cost of extra milk served to children under their care. As a result, milk consumption has been boosted sharply among students in public and non-profit private schools, many of whom were not getting recommended amounts of milk to meet good health standards.

Newly eligible groups include boys' and girls' clubs, Scout camps, child guidance centers, 4-H camps, day care camps, youth groups and summer camps sponsored by churches and civic organizations, and municipal recreational programs.

Milk can be served with meals or in special milk "breaks" at any time of day, says _____________. In most cases it is sold as fluid milk at several cents below the regular market price.

---

* The agency in your State which administers this program is listed in the last section of the attached leaflet under "How to Apply to Take Part in the Program."

USDA 1305 (4-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

1.9
In 31We

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

All States

Farm Fillers

Farmers who plant a cover crop on land designated for the Soil Bank's Acreage Reserve should make sure that the crop planted is one of those approved for that purpose. A list of approved crops was given to each farmer at the time he signed his agreement, according to ______________________ (State or local authority). Approval of a cover crop on Acreage Reserve land does not void the agreement not to harvest it, says ______________. Any questions about this or other phases of the Soil Bank program can be answered by the County ASC office.

- - - - -

About 44 different uses for electricity on farms and in farm homes have been identified by a Federal-State survey. Farm households generally use more electric power than farming operations, it was found. Electric water heaters for homes use about 3,000 kilowatt hours of electricity annually--more than any other type of farm electrical equipment. By comparison, a milking machine uses 27 kwh per cow per year, a chick brooder uses 75 kwh per 100 chicks, and a grain elevator uses 3 kwh per 1,000 bushels.

- - - - -

The rate of production per cow in the United States has increased 20 percent in the past decade, reports the U. S. Department of Agriculture. An equally large increase is expected in the next decade.

- - - - -

Over the last half century, there has been a steady increase in production and use of grass and legume seed, reports the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The increase is partly attributable to better farm practices and greater emphasis on both grassland farming and soil conservation.

USDA 1323 (4-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9 In31We

Conn., Del., Me., Md., Mass., N.H., N.J., N.Y., Pa., R.I., Vt.

Some Northeastern Diets Lack Vitamin B (Thiamine)

One family in five in northeastern United States is not getting enough thiamine--one of the B vitamins--to meet nutritional goals recommended by the National Research Council.

This information developed from a national food consumption survey by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, reports ____________________. Diets of over 6,000 families living in all parts of the country were surveyed and analyzed to see if they were providing recommended amounts of 9 nutrients studied.

The survey showed that Northeasterners as a whole eat fewer grain products (cereals and bakery goods) than do people living in other parts of the country. They also consume less pork. These foods are good sources of thiamine, and consequently people in the Northeast are more likely to be short of this nutrient.

Though pork and enriched or whole grain products are important sources of thiamine, ________________ lists some other foods that contain significant amounts of this nutrient. Liver and kidneys are very good sources, as are some of the nuts, including peanuts. In the quantities used, milk contributes substantial amounts. Dry beans and peas are another good source of thiamine. Some fruits such as oranges, pineapple and watermelon contain fairly large quantities of thiamine, and so do a number of vegetables including potatoes, asparagus, broccoli, peans, lima beans, corn, garden or water cress, endive and dandelion greens.

Calcium, obtained largely from milk, and vitamin C from fruits and vegetables, especially citrus fruits, were found to be short in a considerable number of homes in all parts of the country. Since milk is a good thiamine source, too, ___________ suggests that more milk would greatly improve the diets of many families in __________.
(State)

In the Northeast as a whole, the survey showed that approximately 28 percent of the population does not receive enough calcium, 22 percent are short of recommended amounts of thiamine, and 17 percent do not get enough vitamin C.

USDA 1434 (5-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
EN 31WC

issue

All States

More Calcium Needed in Many American Diets

"You're never too old to drink milk," say the food experts. These people have been suspecting for a long time that many Americans were not getting enough of some of the nutrients contained in milk. This applies particularly to calcium because, of all the foods we commonly eat, milk is the best source of this food element needed to maintain healthy bones and teeth and to help muscles and nerves do their work.

As usual, it turns out that the experts were right, reports ___________. A U. S. Department of Agriculture survey of the food consumption habits of a representative sample of American households in all parts of the country has revealed some weak spots. Among them is less than recommended amounts of calcium in some diets.

A majority of us, fortunately, are getting enough of all the important nutrients for which calculations can now be made, says __________. But a rather significant number of people--29 percent, or almost one in three--are not getting enough calcium to meet recommendations of the National Research Council. More milk or milk products is the answer.

To see if you and your family are getting enough milk, check yourselves against these recommended daily amounts of fluid milk: adults--2 or more cups; children--3 to 4 cups; teen-agers--4 or more cups. Some of this can be consumed in cooked foods containing milk in some form (dry, evaporated, or fluid), or in dairy products made of milk, such as cheese or ice cream, according to ____________.

Other things in addition to milk that should be eaten every day to meet nutritional recommendations of the National Research Council are: 2 or more daily servings of meat, poultry, or fish (or dry beans, peas or nuts as alternates); 4 or more daily servings of vegetables and fruits (including a dark-green or deep-yellow vegetable for vitamin A at least every other day, and one citrus fruit or other fruit or vegetable rich in vitamin C each day); and 4 or more daily servings of bread or cereals (whole grain, enriched or restored).

Plenty of food and sufficient variety is available on U. S. markets to supply everyone with an adequate diet. Though a few people may be handicapped by low income, _____________ thinks that most diets falling short of good nutritional standards probably result from a lack of understanding on the part of homemakers of basic human food requirements and food values.

USDA 1435 (5-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
IN31We

All States

Eat Vitamin C Daily for Good Health, Say Nutrition Experts

An apple a day may keep the doctor away, but it takes an orange a day --or its equivalent--to provide the vitamin C recommended for maintaining good nutrition, says ________________.

A food consumption survey carried out by the U. S. Department of Agriculture showed that among more than 6,000 U. S. families whose food purchases were studied over a week's time, one in four was not receiving recommended quantities of vitamin C. Except for calcium (obtained largely from milk), this was the nutrient most often short in diets judged in relation to nutritional goals recommended by the National Research Council.

Citrus fruits are rich enough in vitamin C to yield a day's supply in one average serving such as a whole orange or a half grapefruit. But it also is present in significant quantities in cantaloup, strawberries, potatoes, peppers, turnips, rutabagas, tomatoes; vegetables of the cabbage family like broccoli, brussel sprouts and cabbage; and in greens such as spinach, mustard and turnip greens. Of these latter fruits and vegetables, more than one average serving is needed to provide enough vitamin C daily.

And since vitamin C is not stored in the body, it should be supplied on a regular day-to-day basis, says ________________.

USDA 1436 (5-57)

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF [illegible]

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
En31We
Reserve

For all States except Del., Me., Nev., N. H., R. I., Vt.

Federal Crop Insurance Has Saved Many Farm Families from Financial Distress

Despite the increasing efficiency of the Nation's farmers and record national farm production, widespread crop disaster continues to bring serious financial problems to many thousands of farm families.

This is pointed up by a recent report to Congress on the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation's experience in insuring farm crops.

The report suggests that people outside the disaster areas are largely unaware of the serious effect on the people and the land of the prolonged drought which, during the past few years, parched extensive areas reaching from the extreme Southwest to the Canadian border. Thousands of farmers who are able to "try again" would have been forced out of business without investment insurance and credit assistance provided by their crop insurance policies.

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
MAY 24 1957
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

From 1953 through 1956 the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation paid a total of $112,901,000 in crop insurance indemnities to its policyholders. It collected $94,271,000 in premiums in return for which it offered $1,408,754,000 worth of protection. Policyholders' premiums paid $1.00 of each $1.19 paid during the 4-year period to indemnify insured farmers for crop losses. Prolonged drought in the Southwest was the predominant cause for indemnities paid during the period covered by the report.

The report stresses the value of crop insurance protection as a businesslike method for farmers to join together for their mutual protection against common risks. Through premium payments, farmers themselves build funds from which emergency assistance is provided when crop disaster strikes.

Farmers in ________ can obtain information about Federal crop
(State)
insurance by writing to ____________________*

*Note to Editors: State and Regional offices serving your State are listed on the attached directory.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

All States

1.9
In31We
Reserve

Many Chemicals Are Available for Controlling Lawn Insects and Pests

Many kinds of insects and insect-like pests damage lawns. But, fortunately there are also many chemicals now available to control these pests, says ________________.
(State or local authority)

Grubs of several kinds of beetles feed on the roots of grass, leaving bare spots where plants have been killed by their feeding. Others, such as sod webworms, armyworms, and cutworms, feed on the leaves or stems. Still others, such as chinch bugs, false chinch bugs, Rhodes-grass scale, and leafhoppers suck juices from the grass. Ants and earthworms dig holes in lawns and throw up mounds of earth, and ants may invade the house from their nests in the grass.

All these pests can be controlled, according to ____________, with insecticides such as chlordane, DDT, aldrin, dieldrin, heptachlor, and lead arsenate.

These insecticides can be purchased in various forms from stores handling garden supplies. Dusts and granules are ready-to-use dry formulations which can be applied with a hand duster or fertilizer spreader. Wettable powders and emulsifiable concentrates must be mixed with water to make a spray which can be applied with a garden-type sprayer. For quicker results chemicals should be washed into the soil by watering after application.

Insecticides can be applied at any time that insects are numerous, says __________. Follow the application rates on the container that you buy, and be sure to observe all precautions on the label because insecticides are poisons.

The problem of moles in the lawn is related to insect problems since moles invade lawns and build their tunnels in search of worms and grubs. Controlling insects will rid the lawn of moles as well, suggests __________.

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
★ MAY 24 1957 ★
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

USDA 1511 (5-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
IN31We

All States

Resume

Exports Are Taking a Rising Proportion of U. S. Farm Production

United States agricultural exports are expected to set an all-time record of about $4.5 billion in 1956-57, reports ______________________ (State or local authority) (or the U. S. Department of Agriculture). The previous record was $4.1 billion in 1951-52.

With a steady rise in agricultural exports during the past several years, farm commodities now being shipped abroad represent the annual harvest of about 50 million acres. This is about equal to the 1956 total harvested acreage of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan.* Nationally, it means that an acre and a half out of every ten are now producing for export.

Acreage producing for export is of course much higher for some crops, according to ______________________. In 1956, for instance, wheat exports amounted to 47 percent of total production; rice, 44 percent; cotton, 36 percent; tobacco, 29 percent; barley, 23 percent; fruit, 20 percent; and soybeans, 16 percent.

The upward trend in agricultural shipments abroad has resulted from a number of influences. Principal among these are greater prosperity in foreign countries; meeting competitive world prices--especially in cotton, wheat and feedgrains; special U. S. Government export programs, including donations, sales for foreign currencies, and barter arrangements; expanding foreign demand due to increasing populations; continued easing of trade barriers against U. S. farm products; and more aggressive export marketing by private U. S. traders.

* Alternative sentences: This is about equal to the 1956 total harvested acreage of Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas. or, This is about equal to the 1956 total harvested acreage of Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Washington, Oregon, California and Oklahoma.

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
MAY 24 1957
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
IN3/We
Reserve

All States

Giant South American Strawberries and Blackberries Offer Promise for New Crossbred Varieties

Many of the luscious big berries we find on the refrigerated counters of our modern supermarkets are a far cry from the ones our grandmothers bought from the itinerant huckster or neighboring farm boy when they were locally in season. Now giant strawberries and blackberries collected recently in South America by Dr. George M. Darrow, U. S. Department of Agriculture specialist, give promise of even better fruits for U. S. markets of tomorrow.

Plant breeders will use these larger cousins of our domestic berries to develop new and still better varieties through crossbreeding.

Both wild and cultivated strawberries with large size, disease resistance, and other promising characteristics were collected in Chile. They were growing under such diverse conditions as long, dry seasons, heavy rainfall, mild coastal temperatures and the rigors of the Andes Mountains up as far as timberline. Some were found within 1,600 feet of the permanent snowline, where they ripen after freezing.

A giant drought-resistant blackberry found on the slopes of the Andes near Bogota, Colombia, ripens at 2 inches in length. Another, collected at an altitude of 10,800 feet in Ecuador had 42 buds, flowers, and fruits growing in one cluster.

Successful crossing of these South American species with our own strawberries and blackberries can mean many advantages for both producers and consumers here in the United States, according to USDA specialists (or other authority). Increased fruit size would cut harvest costs. Greater firmness and disease resistance would cut losses at production and marketing levels, bringing more high-quality berries to consumers at favorable prices. For producers, drought tolerance and hardiness can increase the range over which berries may be grown and make their production more dependable.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

1.9
IN31We

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

LIBRARY
AUG 2 1957
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

erve

All States

Coccidiosis Preventive Drug Will Cut Production in Laying Hens

Never use nicarbazin for controlling coccidiosis in laying hen flocks,

____________________ warns ________ poultrymen. Tests have shown that this
(State or local authority)   (area)
drug drastically reduces egg production. It also changes egg color from brown to white.

A number of drugs, used in combination with good management practices, are effective in preventing coccidiosis infection in chickens. Among them are sulfaquinoxaline, sulfaquanidine, nitrophenide, and nitrofurazone, as well as nicarbazin. Any of these may be used for young, growing stock, but a drug other than nicarbazin should be employed for coccidiosis control in laying flocks, according to __________________.

Nicarbazin was fed to New Hampshire laying hens in tests at the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Research Center at Beltsville, Md., to check its effects on egg production, quality and weight, and shell color and thickness. During the second week treated hens laid only half as many eggs as similar untreated hens used for comparison. The difference continued for more than a week after nicarbazin was discontinued, but two weeks after the drug was withdrawn hens were back to normal production.

Brown eggs began to lighten within 3 days after birds were given nicarbazin. After 2 weeks they were white. When the drug was discontinued, brown color gradually began to return after 2 days and was completely normal after 14 days.

No significant differences were found in weight, quality, or shell thickness of eggs produced by treated and untreated hens. In other tests, however, some mottling of yolks has been found in eggs laid by nicarbazin-treated hens.

____________________ stresses that no drug is an effective substitute for good sanitation in preventing outbreaks of coccidiosis. But a well-timed administration of a preventive drug can help to reduce its spread when signs of coccidiosis appear.

Sanitation measures include keeping chickens in clean, dry quarters, keeping feed and water in clean utensils, giving chickens enough space in which to exercise, and getting rid of disease carriers like flies, rats and mice.

Symptoms of coccidiosis are loss of appetite or weight, weakness, ruffled and soiled feathers, pale combs and wattles, and watery or bloody droppings. The disease may strike at any time of year, but it is more likely to develop in warm, wet weather.

1609 (5-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
In3/We

Reserve

All States except Maine, Vermont, West Virginia, and Nevada

Brown-Banded Cockroach Enjoys Television

Many joys and blessings have come with television--and a few disadvantages too. Among the disadvantages, perhaps, could be listed the spread of the brown-banded cockroach.

This little household pest is particularly fond of TV, according to ______________ (State or local authority). He doesn't care about the picture, but the cabinet provides a warm dark place in which to hide and raise a family. Also, he can hitch a ride in the TV set to the repair shop where he and his hatching young find other TV sets--and hence introduction to some of the best homes. In some circles among bug men, he has come to be known as the TV roach, though he likes radio almost as well.

A tropical insect that first entered this country through the Gulf States, the brown-banded roach has spread into almost every State--possibly with a good deal of help from radio and TV sets, says ______________ (State or local authority). In many areas it is now a common household insect.

Unlike the German roach, or croton bug, which it resembles, the brown-banded roach does not limit its activities to kitchen and bathroom. It runs over the house, depositing egg capsules in corners of dressers and closets and dark undersides of furniture, as well as in radio and TV cabinets. It seems to prefer high spots like closet ceilings and upper corners of cabinets.

(more)

This roach is about half an inch long, with mottled, reddish-brown, almost transparent wings. Two brownish-yellow bands across the back, more prominent on some individuals than others, give it its name. Missing are the two lengthwise brown stripes that appear just behind the head on the slightly larger and also common German roach.

A number of insecticides will kill brown-banded and other cockroaches. Chlordane and DDT are among the most effective. If roaches show resistance to these, lindane should be substituted, according to ______ (State or local authority) ______. Pyrethrum also can be used, and this insecticide is less hazardous to pets and people, but since it has little residual effect, more frequent and heavier applications are required.

To control roaches successfully, it is important to apply insecticide in spray or power form where they will come in contact with it--preferably in their hiding places. The best way to find where they hide is to enter a room quietly at night, turn a light on suddenly and then watch where the roaches run.

If brown-banded roaches are present, open your TV cabinet and look for yellowish or reddish-brown egg capsules less than 1/4 inch long clinging to the upper corners of the case. Remove egg cases, but don't spray oil base insecticides into the interior of a TV set, cautions ______ (State or local authority) ______. A small amount of power insecticide around the edge of the case is all that is recommended for inside the TV. Spraying should be limited to the outside approaches to the cabinet.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

1.9
In 31We

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

eserve

All States

Better Nutrition Helps Calves to Resist Worm Infection

Good nourishment is an important factor in helping calves to resist worm infection.

______________________ cites research work by the Georgia Agri-
(State or local authority)

cultural Experiment Station in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture to illustrate how undernourished calves are particularly susceptible to worm parasites. Better nourished animals eat better, remain healthy and make larger gains under equal exposure to worms.

Calves raised on fescue pasture in Georgia had more worms and showed more ill effects of worm infection than comparable animals on crimson clover pasture or calves on a temporary winter pasture of ryegrass, oats, and crimson clover. When the calves on fescue got supplemental corn, they had only one-third as many worms, made larger gains and ate slightly more forage than calves on fescue alone. Feeding supplemental corn to calves on the temporary and crimson clover pastures reduced worm loads, but did not increase gains or influence forage consumption.

The calves on fescue pasture without supplemental corn also showed outward symptoms of worm infection, such as rough and dull coats, diarrhea, and emaciation. In post mortem examinations calves on fescue alone showed such pathological symptoms of the stomach as swelling, inflammation, and pyloric hemorrhages. By contrast, only moderate inflammation of the stomach was seen in animals on the more nutritive crimson clover.

From this evidence, researchers concluded that good nutrition improves a calf's ability to resist worms.

Another finding from this research is that spring-dropped calves had 2 to 3 times more worms than fall-dropped calves. Fall dropping of calves seems to help control parasitism during the next year's growth and finishing. It is most practical where cattlemen have good winter pastures or a good feeding plan for their cows in late fall and early winter, according to the Georgia scientists.

USDA 1691 (5-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

1.9
In 31We.

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

U. S. DEPARTMENT ...
1957

All States

Cheaper and Better Leathers May Compete with Textiles for Clothing Uses

Chemists have accomplished many things with textiles--new fibers and chemical modifications of such old stalwarts as cotton and wool are offering all kinds of new qualities and advantages to consumers. Now, leather is entering the competition for apparel markets, and its uses may be extended before long into the fine clothing field reports ______________ (State or local authority) ______________.

Animal hides are probably the oldest material used for human attire. Here on our own continent, both Indian maid and frontier scout found leather highly satisfactory protection against the elements. And leather is still preferred for many uses such as shoes, pocketbooks, wallets, gloves, and sports jackets.

To make it more practical for other uses, agricultural research is seeking ways to improve the quality of leather and cut the cost of tanning it. Great strides are being made along this line at the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Eastern Utilization Research and Development Division in Philadelphia, Pa. Researchers there have isolated and found a way to remove a substance in cattle hides called elastin. This material makes the hide hard and brittle when dry and causes it to stretch when wet. Though elastin is resistant to chemicals, it can be dissolved by certain enzymes, the researchers have found. Its removal could lead to softer and more pliable leathers with widespread uses in the clothing field.

The work in Philadelphia is part of a continuing effort to increase the uses of leather by chemically modifying hides to give them new properties and by developing better, faster, and cheaper handling and tanning methods.

It will all add up to more and better materials for the consumer to choose from for whatever use he may have in mind. And it will also mean a stronger market for an important agricultural product.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

1.9
In 3/We
Reserve

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

CURRENT
AUG 2 1957

All States

Wood Preservative Will Make Picnic Tables and Lawn Furniture Last Longer

Homeowners invest considerable money and effort in furnishing their lawns and backyards with picnic furniture, swings and gliders, and other accessories to outdoor living and entertaining. If you are among these persons, naturally you would like these things to last as long as possible.

You can add years to the useful life of wooden outdoor furnishings by treating them with a wood preservative, suggests ________________.

Two excellent materials which can be easily applied can be obtained in either concentrated or ready-to-use form, from your hardware store, paint shop, or lumber yard, according to ________________. They are pentachlorophenol, often referred to as "penta," and copper naphthenate. Each is sold under various other trade names, but the label will indicate when one of these is present and give directions for applying it. If a large quantity of preservative is required, it is less expensive to buy a concentrate and mix it, as directed, with a light diesel oil or fuel oil.

All wood in constant contact with the soil is subject to rot, says ________________, though the heartwood of some species such as cedar, catalpa, cypress, juniper, black locust, osage-orange and redwood will resist decay for a longer period than others. The sapwood (outer, light-colored part of the tree trunk) of all species is quickly destroyed.

Wood decay is caused by the action of fungi--small plant-like organisms present everywhere in the soil. Numerous insects also attack wood. Both need warmth, moisture and air in which to work. Rain-soaked wood and wood in contact with soil are ideal for their destructive activity.

(more)

The preservatives suggested by ________________ are poisonous to both insects and fungi. Mixed with oil, they are not soluble in water and wood soaked with them becomes water repellent. But to be effective the preservatives must penetrate the wood. Surface treatment, such as painting on with a brush, is not sufficient where wood is in contact with the soil or where moisture stands, says ________________. Wherever possible, these vulnerable spots should be immersed in the penta or copper naphthenate solution and allowed to stand until thoroughly soaked.

For furniture like picnic tables, benches and chairs, ________________ suggests letting each leg stand overnight in a tin can or other container filled with preservative-oil solution. A flexible plastic mixing bowl makes a convenient container for treating odd-shaped legs or supports that will not fit easily into a rigid holder.

Other vulnerable spots such as joints, bolt holes, cracks, and lumber ends where rain is likely to soak into the wood, can be treated by repeatedly flooding the surface with preservative and allowing it to stand until it disappears into the wood.

Wood should be dry and unpainted when treated, according to ________________. If desired, paint can be applied over the preservative after it is thoroughly dry. Copper naphthenate leaves a slight green stain.

- - - - -

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
In31We
Reserve

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
AUG 2 1957
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

Farm Fillers

As incomes have risen, U. S. consumers continue to spend more for food, including that bought in restaurants and other away-from-home eating places. In 1956, they spent an average of $419 per person, compared with $336 in 1950, reports the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The increase, according to the USDA, resulted partly from the purchase of more food, but also from buying more expensive food and more services such as food preparation and packaging.

Consumers spent 25 percent of their disposable income for food in 1956. But food of the same type and quantity per person as they bought in 1935-39 would have taken only 16 percent of their income.

- - - - -

More and more people are buying their milk in half-gallon containers instead of the traditional one-quart home size. Data from the U. S. Department of Agriculture show that from April 1956 to March 1957 householders bought 40 percent of their milk in the half-gallon compared with about 27 percent in the 12 months ending in March 1955. Use of the single quart container declined proportionately.

- - - - -

Introduction of "instant" nonfat dry milk has greatly increased sales of dry milk to home users. In 1955-56 sales were 20 percent greater than in 1954-55, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

USDA 1760 (6-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
IN31We

erve

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
AUG 2 1957
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

Many Homes Are Inadequately Wired for Modern Electric Appliances

More and more household chores, from dishwashing to clothesdrying, are being shouldered by electrical servants. And through air conditioners and radio and TV sets, those ready kilowatts are providing a lot in the way of comfort and entertainment too.

But many homeowners are discovering that their houses are inadequately wired to handle the extra load of appliances, says ______________.

Blowing fuses, flickering lights, and shrinking TV pictures when additional electrical appliances are turned on are all signs that circuits are overloaded, according to ______________.

For safety's sake, call in an electrical contractor when this occurs. Don't use heavier than 15 ampere fuses unless your circuits are built to handle them. And never use a coin to establish contact after a fuse has blown ______________ warns. Fuses and circuit breakers operate on the basis of flow of electric current. Excess flow of current not broken by a fuse or circuit breaker causes heat greater than insulations on wires can resist. The overheated wires can easily cause a fire.

If your house needs additional wiring, it will pay you to take care of this need promptly. All appliances will work more efficiently and satisfactorily and they may use less electric current to do the same work. Cost of wiring is small compared to the safety and convenience of a properly wired home.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

1.9
In31We

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special
to Extension
Editors

AUG 2 1957
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

Home Freezers Should Be Readied for High Temperatures and Heavy Summer Loads

How long is it since your home food freezer has been cleaned and oiled? A dusty condenser, a motor that needs oiling, a heavy blanket of ice in the food compartment, and you're all set for trouble when summer temperatures climb and peak loads of food are added for freezing, warns ______________.

At least once a year a home freezer should be completely defrosted and cleaned. The condenser should be brushed or blown free of accumulated lint and dust. And if the motor is not sealed-in, as it is in some late models, the oil cups on either end should be filled with oil. On older belt-driven types, the belt should be inspected for breaks and the tension adjusted for smooth running.

Now is a good time to take care of these chores, suggests ______________. Then your freezer will enter its heavy season in tip-top condition.

In cleaning and servicing a home freezing unit, ______________ advises following the manufacturer's instructions. A good deal of time and expense goes into preparation of these instructions and use of them would prevent a high percentage of trouble encountered with home appliances. If you have misplaced your instruction leaflet, contact a sales agent or write to the manufacturer for a new one, ______________ suggests.

A home freezer, operating normally, should run about 18 hours out of 24, according to ______________. A dirty condenser can cause it to run 20 hours. Add a thick coat of ice crystals to the inside of the box and running time may increase to 22 hours. Then, put in a load of warm food to be frozen, and the

(more)

motor may run all 24 hours. Any further strain and the freezer is incapable of maintaining a temperature of zero. Even if your motor doesn't break down, as it well may, the quality of the food in the freezer will quickly decline as the inside temperature rises. Inefficient operation also runs up your electric bill.

Defrosting time can be shortened by using an ordinary room fan to blow warm air down into the freezer box. As soon as the ice is loosened from the walls, it should be lifted out and the compartment cleaned with soap and water.

Frozen food can be packed in cardboard cartons during the defrosting process. This can be returned to the freezer shortly after it is back in operation. But the box should be thoroughly cooled and the freezer cycling normally at zero temperature, says _______________, before addition of any warm food to be frozen.

- - - - - - -

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

1.9
IN3We
serve

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

All States

Calves Raised Away From the Herd Digest Roughage Without Aid

Nowadays calves are often separated from the herd shortly after birth and raised apart from their dams. Questions have arisen about whether these animals should be drenched with rumen contents from an adult cow to help them digest roughage.

It has been known for a long time, according to ____________ that certain organisms--bacteria and plant-like protozoa--normally found in a cow's rumen are helpful in breaking down roughage so that it can be digested more easily. These organisms are ordinarily passed along to young animals through normal herd contacts.

Some cattlemen have felt that calves removed from normal contact with their dams would not develop these built-in aids to forage digestion, says ____________. But research at the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Beltsville, Md., Research Center indicates that calves thrive just as well when they are raised apart from the herd. At Beltsville isolated calves ate just as much roughage and apparently digested it just as well as calves raised with their dams. Calves isolated for 17 weeks in this limited study showed no noticeable difference from unrestricted ones in rate of growth, appearance, or in amount of feed used per pound of added weight.

To a certain extent the doubting Thomases are right, says ____________. Rigidly isolated calves did not develop the ordinary rumen organisms to the degree that they are found in animals left with the herd, and some organisms were not present at all. They developed other organisms, however, that seemed to be equally effective. And when the calves were put with the herd later on, the normal rumen organisms quickly developed.

USDA 1852 (6-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
In 3 1 We
Reserve

CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
AUG 2 1957
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

Farm Fillers

The amount of dairy products eaten per person is low in the United States compared with many other countries. Among 17 countries for which figures are available, the United States ranks 15th, or close to the bottom of the list in per capita consumption of all dairy products, reports the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

- - - - - - -

Pasteurization, refrigeration and homogenization have brought the U. S. milk supply to a level of safety and keeping quality scarcely appreciated by the average consumer. Today it is possible to bottle milk in such a way that it regularly keeps a highly acceptable flavor and quality for as much as 6 weeks from the time it is bottled. The methods by which this is done are all standard processes: bulk tank cooling and holding on the farm; effective sanitizing of equipment; homogenization; and high-temperature-short-time pasteurization.

- - - - - - -

Ripe peaches sell more quickly than green ones from help-yourself counter displays. And no wonder! Peaches picked and shipped to market in a firm ripe condition are generally better in flavor and quality than peaches picked and shipped green.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture is studying methods for cooling and shipping ripe peaches to discover how losses from bruising and rot can be reduced. The results should lead to more high quality fruit on grocery counters.

- - - - - - -

USDA 1853 (6-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

1.9
In31We

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

AUG 2 1957
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Reserve

All States

Give Your House a Raincoat; Science Suggests a Water Repellent Wood Preservative

Tight construction and a good coat of paint used to be considered the best protection against weather damage to wood used in buildings. But these frequently prove inadequate, as anyone knows who has struggled with problems of blistered paint and rotting wood on the exterior of his house. Now an extra "raincoat" is available. It's a water-repellent wood preservative.

The preservative, according to ______________, is pentachlorophenol, often referred to simply as "penta." This can be purchased under various trade names, already mixed in a water repellent solution, or as a concentrate to be mixed according to directions given on the label.

Tests carried out at the Forest Products Laboratory of the U. S. Forest Service at Madison, Wis., show that wood siding readily absorbs moisture when it is subjected to a driving rain or water running down over it. Due to capillary action--the tendency of a liquid in contact with a solid to flow upward--raindrops actually climb up under the siding. On a newly painted house a paint film may stop this action, but the slightest crevice permits the joints to soak up water like a sponge. When this happens paint blisters or, as the water drips out the same way it entered, it leaves streaky stains from wood, building paper or rusty nails.

In replacing rotted siding, soak or dip the new wood in a penta solution, suggests ______________. Or if boards are sound and the house simply needs repainting, scrape and sand blistered areas. Then, before new paint is applied, brush a penta, water-repellent preservative into overlap joints and butt ends. Joints on door and window trims and house corners should be treated too,

(more)

especially where old paint has loosened. Excess penta that runs down over the paint should be wiped off with a cloth dampened with paint thinner. Allow the penta to dry thoroughly before the house is repainted.

If you are building a new house, ______________ suggests that you ask your contractor about the possibility of obtaining treated lumber. More and more lumber yards are installing equipment to soak or pressure treat wood with pentachlorophenol. Life added to the wood and repair bills saved justify the expense of treatment, says ______________.

# # # # # #

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
IN31We

Reserve

CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
AUG 2 1957
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

Consider More Than Egg Production in Selecting Laying Hens for Breeding

In selecting laying hens for breeding, it's not enough simply to compare the egg production of different chickens over the same short period of time. As in the case of the tortoise and the hare, short-term speed can be misleading, says ______________.

All chickens tend to lay eggs at a faster rate when they first begin to lay, according to ______________. The rate drops off as the time increases from the first egg laid. Thus is would give a false picture to compare the December rate of production of two chickens, one of which began to lay in August and the other in October.

The length of day, or hours of available light (daylight plus artificial light), also affects egg production. Generally 13 or 14 hours of light each day is most favorable. Thus to compare the same production period, say the first month of production, of different hens would be misleading if the hours of light in the two periods were different.

To select the best layers for breeding, ______________ suggests running 3-month tests with the same number of hours of light and other management factors as equal as possible--and carefully measuring the declining rate of egg production from the first lay. Short-term estimates of production can thus be made which would be about equal to year-long comparisons under natural conditions.

USDA 1916 (6-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

1.9
IN31We

LIBRARY
AUG 2 1957
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF

serve

Special
to Extension
Editors

All States

Fruit Trees Reinvigorated by Mulch Feeding System

"Mulch" can be done to reinvigorate a tired fruit tree.

Orchardists with fruit trees that have fallen off in production and lack vigor might consider trying a mulch feeding system used with great success by U. S. Department of Agriculture scientists, suggests ________.

Some 20-year-old apple trees growing in the orchards at the Department's Beltsville, Md., Research Center appeared to be dying. These trees were believed to be suffering from "wet feet"--or a case of bad drainage. To save them, they were mulched experimentally with 2 to 3 hundred pounds per tree of fresh orchard grass and tall fescue hay which had been fertilized while growing with 100 pounds of nitrogen per acre.

The hay, mowed at heading stage, was distributed evenly under the trees to the outermost spread of the branches. This mulch kept the soil cool and moist near the surface and slowly released a constant supply of all the nutrients needed by the trees. The effect was to encourage a growth of new roots nearer the surface and out of the wet areas farther down.

Result: the mulched trees recovered and became the most vigorous and productive trees in the orchard.

Mice--often troublesome around orchard trees--were controlled by keeping the mulch about a foot away from the trunk of the trees and using poison bait laid beneath squares of roofing paper.

It's important in mulch feeding, cautions ______________, to use hay from well-fertilized grass so that nutrients will be released to the soil as it decomposes. Less well fertilized hay would rob the soil of nutrients during the decomposition process.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
IN31We

Reserve

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
AUG 2 1957

All States

Apply for Farm Storage Facility Loans at Local ASC Offices

Need more farm storage space?

"Loans for building storage space are offered by the Commodity Credit Corporation," ____________________ reminds ____________ farmers.
(area)

These loans are available through local banks or directly from the CCC, says ______________________. Owner-operators, share tenants, share landlords, and producer partners are all eligible. Applications can be made at the local ASC (Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee) office.

These loans can be paid off over a 4-year period beginning on the first anniversary of the loan. Interest is at 4 percent per year. Storage structures built with these loans must meet standards for storage under the CCC price-support program.

"More storage space on the farm often means getting a better price for your crops after low harvest-time price levels have passed. If you could use more space, why not drop into your local ASC office and discuss the possibilities," suggests ____________________. "They can give you the details as they apply to your particular farm crops."

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

1.9
In 3/We

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
AUG 2 1957
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

eserve

All States

Methods of Ensiling Determine Quality of Silage

Feeding quality of silage depends upon the methods used in filling the silo as well as upon the forage with which it is loaded. And quality is usually determined within a few hours after ensiling because that's when the fermentation process important to preservation takes place, says ________________________.
(State or local authority)

U. S. Department of Agriculture research shows that an important key to successful preservation is immediate exclusion of air from the silage.

Forage tramped, weighted and immediately sealed usually made good quality silage in the USDA experiments. Oxygen present was used up by bacteria and plant enzymes within about 5 hours, and conditions then became favorable for other bacteria to take over and start the preservation process by converting sugars into lactic, acetic and succinic acids.

On the other hand, forage left loose and unsealed for 2 days spoiled. And spoilage was even more complete when air was forced through the forage. This forage heated abnormally for the first few days and ultimately lost nutrients and much of the lactic acid needed for effective preservation. A build-up of undesirable bacteria converted proteins into ammonia, hydrogen sulfide and other offensive substances.

Excessive temperature is an early symptom of spoilage in silage, notes ______________. But it's the exclusion of air that counts in controlling this heating and in encouraging proper fermentation.

Type of plant used in silage is, of course, another factor in quality, says ________________. A surprising finding from the USDA research was that alfalfa consistently made better silage than orchard grass, despite the latter's higher sugar content. For one thing, alfalfa withstood higher temperatures with less nutrient loss. But there was also a difference in the bacteria development in these two forages when they were similarly treated.

We are concerned about the fact that delinquencies on SW loans have increased during the past year. This situation is particularly serious in some of the states that have made a substantial number of SW loans. We suggest that you carefully analyze the situation in your state(s) to determine the causes of the delinquencies, and endeavor to improve the status of these accounts and avoid a recurrence of the types of delinquencies that may be attributable to an improper analysis of the individual's or the association's debt-paying capacity.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

eserve
9
n 31 We

LIBRARY
NOV 2 1958
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Ala., Ariz., Ark., Calif., Ga., La., Miss., Okla., S. C., Tex.

Cotton Needs More Frequent Irrigation in Late Summer

As a cotton plant develops in size and leaf area, its rate of water use increases. Therefore, more frequent irrigations are likely to be needed in late July and August, when temperatures are highest and the plants are at their peak of flowering and boll development.

No exact schedule for late season irrigation can be worked out, says ____________ in answer to many questions from cotton growers about how often and how late to irrigate. Many factors are involved, according to ______________, such as type of soil, size of plants, depth of roots, humidity, temperature and hours of sunlight.

The cotton plant itself is usually the best indicator of its need for additional moisture. After flowering begins, the plants should grow steadily, but not luxuriantly. Squares at the top should be rather prominent, with a few flowers readily observable among the top leaves. When only leaves are noticeable, the plants are growing too rapidly. Too many flowers, on the other hand, indicates restricted growth, probably due to too little moisture.

Also, careful observation of a field of cotton will reveal a change in appearance of plants just before wilting occurs. Foliage will have a slightly blueish tinge, and in dryer spots the plants will appear somewhat darker.

USDA 2169 (7-58)

(over)

Another guide to moisture need, according to ____________, is the amount of tender green growth at the top of the plant in relation to reddish coloring lower on the stalk. Two or three inches of tender green stem above the reddish colored stalks indicate that it is time to irrigate. If the red color moves closer to the terminal buds, wilting will follow shortly--possibly before water can be applied.

In answer to questions about how late in the season to continue irrigating, ____________ suggests three factors to consider: soil texture, degree of maturity of plants, and climatic conditions before harvest.

Light textured soils which require irrigation every 7-10 days should be irrigated up to a later date than heavy soils with better moisture-holding capacity.

The more advanced the crop, the sooner irrigation can cease. But it is important to have sufficient soil moisture during development of late set bolls. Moisture should be available at least 40-45 days after the date of flowering to insure full development.

Lack of moisture at the end of the season will lead to premature opening of late set bolls with shorter staple and immature fiber. But irrigation too late in the fall will delay maturity and may increase lodging, leaf growth, and boll rot. When the late bolls are fairly well advanced, irrigation should be discontinued.

Insufficient penetration of water into the soil is sometimes a problem in late season irrigation, says ______________. To find whether the moisture is soaking into the root zone and not just wetting the surface, he suggests checking with a shovel, soil tube, or auger.

Note to editors: This information on late season cotton irrigation was obtained from the U. S. Cotton Field Station at Shafter, California.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

eserve
9
N31We

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
NOV 25 1958
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Ala., Ariz., Ark., Calif., Ga., La., Miss., Okla., S. C., Tex.

Reducing Irrigations May Control Rank Growth in Cotton

Many questions are asked each year about how to control rank growth in cotton. This lush growth may take the form of additional height or excessive branching.

In irrigated cotton, vegetative growth can often be slowed by delaying the irrigation schedule, suggests ____________________ (State or local authority). When plants are growing rapidly, frequent irrigations may encourage additional growth, and this can be cut be reducing the water supply.

Another method that is sometimes effective, according to __________, is to irrigate only every other row. This should work on most soils, except those that crack or are poorly leveled.

Irrigation, however, is not the only cause of rank growth, reminds ____________. A heavy early shedding due either to improper moisture conditions or poor insect control can also lead to this condition. Other causes are crowded plants and over-fertilization. Sometimes, in fertile soils and under some cropping sequences, rank growth is produced normally and is difficult to control.

Topping rank-growing cotton which has reached 4 to 4½ feet in height by the time it should be in full bloom may aid its maturing. This practice allows more sunlight and air to penetrate the plant, but it is recommended only if other methods fail to reduce growth. If topping is done early enough, the stalks become stronger and more rigid, lodging and boll rots may be reduced, and the yield may be increased.

Note to editors: This information was obtained from the U. S. Cotton Field Station at Shafter, Calif.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

1.9
IN31We

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

Reserve

AUG 2 195
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

For Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina

Florida Experiment May Lead to Eradication of Screwworms from Southeast

The U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Florida Livestock Board are cooperating this summer in a pilot test to determine the feasibility of eradicating the screwworm from Southeastern United States.

Damage done by the larvae of the bluish-green screwworm fly cost livestock producers in the Southeast \$10 to \$15 million last year. Eggs laid by the fly in the wounds of warm-blooded animals develop into wormlike larvae that feed upon the infected flesh. Unless wounds are discovered and treated promptly, animals may be killed by the parasite.

The pest was successfully eradicated from the island of Curacao in 1954 by the systematic and continuous release of sterile male flies. Female flies mating with the sterile males laid eggs that failed to hatch. Since the female fly mates only once, screwworm populations were reduced and finally eliminated by this method.

A similar technique is being tested in Florida over 2,000 square miles of rangeland southeast of Orlando. Laboratory-reared screwworms are sterilized with gamma rays of radioactive cobalt. As many as 2 million of these flies are being released each week in the test area. If results are encouraging, an all-out regional eradication program may be developed for Southeastern States, including ________________________.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
IN31We

Reserve

CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
AUG 2 1957
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

Farm Fillers

Granulated Fertilizer Up

Fifteen percent of all fertilizer mixtures today are granulated, it has been estimated by the USDA.

Red Meat Production Up

Commercial and farm production of red meat set a record of 28.1 billion pounds in 1956. The Crop Reporting Board of the USDA says this is 4 percent higher than the previous record set in 1955--26.9 billion pounds.

Milk Production Up In June

Farm milk production during June of this year totaled 12,662 million pounds says the USDA. This is the highest June total since 1945 and 3 percent above the 1946-55 average.

Pasture Conditions Considered Good

Dairy pasture conditions in the U. S. on July 1 averaged 90 percent of normal says the USDA. Conditions were 12 percent better than last year and 5 percent above average for the date.

USDA 2178 (7-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

1.9
IN3/We

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

Reserve

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
★ AUG 2 1957 ★
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

Farm Fillers

More Fruits, Vegetables Packed

More consumer units of fresh fruits and vegetables are being packaged than ever. It is estimated by the USDA that 20 percent of the fresh produce now packaged is sold retail

----

Fertilizer Use To Go Up

By 1975 it is estimated that 10 to 12 million tons of fertilizer will be used as plant nutrients. That would be an increase of 75 to 100 percent over the amount used today says the USDA.

Forest Fires Down In 1956

In 1956 there were 143,485 forest fires reported on private, State, and Federal lands--a decrease of 1,695 from 1955. However, on the average there was still a forest fire ever 3 1/2 minutes says the USDA.

Frozen Dessert Industry Grows

More fruits are finding their way to the frozen dessert industry reports the Usda. It is estimated that by 1975 total consumption of frozen desserts will be 1,200 million gallons. That would be a 60 percent jump above 1953 production levels.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
IN 31We

Reserve

AUG 1957
U. S. ... OF AGRICULTURE

California, Oregon, and Washington

Pacific Coast States Grow 80 Percent of U. S. Pears

California, Oregon, and Washington produce about 80 percent of the pear crop of the United States.

The average annual production is about 25 million bushels, says ____________________. Yields of 30 tons of fruit per acre are sometimes produced in the better orchards.

The pear varieties grown in the 3 Pacific Coast States need long periods of low temperatures during the winter--about 1,200 hours under 45 degrees F. This lets the pear trees complete their dormant period and get a vigorous start in the spring.

The land in the 3 States is favorable for pears. The slopes or rolling lands provide protection from frost through good air drainage. The slopes also afford better water drainage despite the fact that pears can endure more moisture and other faulty growing conditions than most deciduous fruits. __________________________ says for best results with pears, however, deep and fertile soil is necessary. Some pear orchards more than 50 years old still produce large crops of top quality.

The prospects for pear growing in the Pacific Coast States in the future appear good. Many of the orchards on poor soils or with unsatisfactory rootstocks have been pulled up. Recent plantings well suited for the land seem to assure a continuance of the high quality and heavy, dependable production of pears.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

1.9
In 31We

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

Reserve

AUG 2 1957
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

For Ariz., Colo., Nev., N. Mex., Okla., Tex., and Utah

Researchers Attack the Beef Tapeworm in the Southwest

The beef tapeworm is a potential menace to man and livestock. ______________________ says the livestock industry, State and U. S. Department of Agriculture agencies are attacking the parasite which has hit hardest in the Southwest--particularly Arizona--during the past few years.

In cattle the tapeworm is found in a cystic or larval form. "Measly beef," the term given infested carcasses, gets its name from the spotted appearance of the cysts in the meat. Federal meat inspection requires that heavily infested carcasses be condemned outright. This inspection plus our high sanitary standards has helped keep nationwide infestation low.

Investigations show cattle get the parasite when there is a breakdown in sanitary conditions by man. Wastes from infested laborers may contaminate some concrete-lined irrigation ditches used in the Southwest to water cattle. Man in turn may get the parasite by eating uncooked or slightly cooked beef containing the larvae and cycle is begun again.

Researchers have found few if any clinical symptoms in infested test animals, says______________________. In fact, the animals gained weight normally even when heavily infested with the parasite. This is contrary to the belief that infested cattle suffer weight loss, roughened hair coat, and even death.

One of the best means of protection against the tapeworm is providing, and stressing the use of, sanitary facilities for workers on farms where cattle are fed or pastured. Likewise, slaughter animals should not be allowed to graze lands fertilized or irrigated from untreated sewage systems.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
IN83We

Reserve

All States except Ariz., Colo., Ill., Iowa, Kan., Ky., Mont., Neb., Nev., N. Mex., N. Dak., S. Dak., Tex., Utah, and Wyo.

Blueberries May Become Important Crop

Blueberries--native to North America--are increasing in their importance as a cultivated fruit crop.

In 1955 an estimated 12,500 acres of cultivated blueberries yielded an estimated $11 million, marketed fresh, canned, and frozen. However, the total value of blueberries in the United States is much greater, but harder to estimate, since wild blueberries are harvested in all but 15 States.

Selection and breeding of superior varieties are enabling growers to put a better product on the market, says ________________. Hybrids are being developed from some of the large fruit varieties and some of the drought-resistant species which may prove useful in erosion control.

Since blueberry species vary in their climatic requirements, it is possible to grow blueberries from Maine to Florida. A common characteristic of all varieties, however, is their need for an acid soil. Also, even though some varieties are native to swamp and moist lands, cultivated fields should be well drained.

The size of blueberry yields varies. A single mature plant usually bears 6 to 8 pints. On good soils in Michigan, yields from the second to the sixth year usually increase from 50 to 6,000 pints per acre. However, yields as high as 9,600 pints per acre have been known.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
IN 3/We

eserve

All States

Farm Workday Is Declining

The farm workday is slowly but surely becoming shorter.

Declines in working hours per day in nearly all states are reported by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, says ________________________.

Farmers averaged 10.7 hours work per day around June 1 of this year. At the same time in 1956 the average was 10.9 hours per day, and in 1955 it was 11.2.

Much of the decrease in the farm workday comes about as a result of reductions in chore labor.

USDA studies show that gains in labor efficiency are possible through such things as increased size of flocks and herds, improved arrangement of buildings, use of more modern equipment, and adaptation of chore routines. In one series of tests annual dairy chore labor was reduced from 225 hours labor per cow to less than 70 hours through such practices.

Another study, by the USDA and the Illinois experiment station, shows that the annual time spent on poultry chores may be cut by 80 percent. Again, time-saving practices decreased the amount of labor needed to tend the flock. For example, an automatic waterer providing continuous flow might lower the time required to water poultry by hand from 42 hours annually to 3 hours.

Through newer and better methods and machinery the farmer will be able to enjoy more leisure time while still getting his work done.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special
to Extension
Editors

1.9
In3We

Reserve

All States

SERIAL RECORD
AUG 2 1957
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Uniform Quality of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Is Gained Through Inspection

A great deal of fresh fruits and vegetables can be put in 1,386,663 railroad cars. As a matter of fact, that is the number of carloads of fresh produce that was inspected by Federal and State fruit and vegetable inspectors during 1956.

With watchful eyes, 3,800 licensed men inspect fresh fruits and vegetables at shipping points and terminal markets in all 48 States, Puerto Rico, and Hawaii in the interest of maintaining uniform quality of the produce.

This service, directed by the Fruit and Vegetable Division of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service in cooperation with the States, helps the producer and the shipper get the best possible returns for their products and in turn, guarantees the distributor that he is receiving produce that meets its grade designation.

Besides fresh produce, Federal and State men inspected 462,687 carloads of raw products for processing at many canneries and frozen food plants in 1956.

Except in areas where producers have adopted Federal or State marketing orders which require that all shipments comply with quality standards, the inspection service is voluntary. The costs of inspection are paid by the producers and shippers (and State appropriations in some cases). In 1956 they paid more than $10,000,000 for inspection fees.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

1.9
In31We
Reserve

U. S. Department of Agriculture

SERIAL RECORD
AUG 2 1957

Special to Extension Editors

All States

Farm Fillers

U. S. Is Top Importer

Many people realize that the United States is the largest exporter of agricultural and industrial commodities in the world. But, the U. S. is also the largest importer, says the USDA. In 1955, $12 billion worth of goods were imported into this country.

- - - - - - - - - - - -

Farm Accidents

Between 1950-55 an annual average of 14,000 farm people died as a result of accidents. Unsafe practices and hazardous conditions that could have been corrected were responsible in many cases, says the USDA.

-*- - - - - - - - - - - -

Dutch Permit U. S. Poultry Imports

The Netherlands Government has relaxed some of the restrictions which for many years have prevented U. S. poultry imports. Newcastle disease restrictions were relaxed and licenses to import U. S. turkeys were issued in a series of actions, reports the USDA. The Netherlands may become an important market for U. S. poultry and poultry products.

- - - - - - - - - - - -

Record Six Month Milk Production

During the first 6 months of 1957 a record total of 67.3 billion pounds of milk was produced, according to the USDA. The old record was 66.8 billion pounds, set during the same period of 1956.

* - - - - - - - - - - -

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
In31We

serve

CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
AUG 2 1957
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

For P. M. Release July 30

All States

Farm Fillers

Sweetpotato, New Snack

A new twist in snacks may be found in the sweetpotato, says the USDA. Sweetpotato chips, dice, julienne strips, and frozen French fries were found to be delicious and good possibilities for commercial food products in recent tests.

- - - - - - - - - -

Irradiating Farm Products

In the near future USDA scientists plan to use radioactive cobalt (cobalt 60) for treatments to help improve or create useful products from cottonseed, pine gum, tung oil, castor oil, fruits, and vegetables.

- - - - - - - - - -

Where Age Doesn't Count

Recent studies by the USDA show that the age of a nonvaccinated cow does not affect her susceptibility to brucellosis.

Parasite Aids USDA Studies

With the help of a harmless form of the blackhead parasite, USDA researchers are learning more about the harmful strain that causes blackhead disease in turkeys.

- - - - - - - - - -

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

1.9
In31We

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

Reserve

AUG 1957
AGRICULTURE

For Ala., Ark., Ga., La., Miss., N. Car., S. Car., Tenn., and Tex.

Farm Fillers

Southern Cows Produce Less

Although slowly increasing, milk production per cow in the nine Southern states of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas averaged less than 3,700 pounds per cow in 1955. In contrast, says the USDA, the other 39 States averaged 5,815 pounds per cow.

- - - - - - - - - - -

Dairying In South More Specialized

Dairy farming is becoming more specialized in the nine Southern states of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas, reports the USDA. The number of cows, as in the size herds is rapidly increasing although the total number of cows, as in the rest of the U. S., is decreasing. The number of dairy farms is rising also.

- - - - - - - - - - -

Bulk Milk Tank Replacing Can

The bulk milk tank is replacing the milk can in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas. In the 18 months between July, 1954 and January, 1956 the number of tanks jumped from 378 to 1,648, an increase of more than 4 times. During the same period in the U. S. as a whole, the number of bulk tanks slightly more than doubled.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

1.9
In3We

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special
to Extension
Editors

Reserve

CURRENT S
★ AUG 2 1957

All States

Specialists Ready for Disease and Destruction in Peace or War

Local, State, and U. S. Department of Agriculture specialists are on the alert to save the Nation's livestock and crops in the event of disease and destruction in peacetime or wartime.

At present this team of specialists is working to prevent any foreign livestock or plant pests and diseases from entering the U. S., and also to control those already here. The job is becoming harder with increased domestic and international trade by air. When livestock is shipped by sea, there is time for most diseases to develop and be diagnosed. By air, animals arrive in hours, not days, and symptoms of diseases with lengthy incubation periods may not have time to develop and be recognized.

Because the defense of the U. S. in past wars has counted heavily on the production of our farms and factories, an enemy might try to weaken or destroy our resources by biological warfare--the deliberate use of disease-producing agents against animals and plants.

Unfortunately, some animal diseases, both native and foreign, mild and fatal, have similar symptoms. This could confuse diagnosis and eradication. Without prompt action our livestock and crop industries might be crippled.

With these points in mind the specialists are standing by to help halt the accidental or deliberate transmission of pests and diseases into this country.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
In 31We
Reserve

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
AUG 2 1957
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

Farm Fillers

Fewer Chickens Raised This Year

The USDA estimates that 394,305,000 young chickens will be raised on farms in 1957. That is 18 percent less than last year, and the lowest number on record.

Farm Tractor Purchases

Farmers bought close to 600,000 wheel tractors in 1955, estimate the USDA and the Department of Commerce. About three-fifths were used tractors.

U. S. To Eat Less Meat

Consumption of meat per person in the U. S. in 1957 is expected to total 159 pounds, says the USDA. That would be 8 pounds below the rate of 1956.

Record Turkey Crop in Sight

The 1957 turkey crop is expected to top the record number of 77 million birds raised in 1956, says the USDA. Even if July and August hatchings are below the 1956 level, hatchings for the year (September 1956-August 1957) seem likely to exceed a year earlier.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

Reserve
1.9
In31Wx

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

SERIAL RECORD
AUG 4 - 1958
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

Cut Flowers a Growing Business

Markets for cut flowers are growing. Producers in 5 States received nearly $40 million from carnations, chrysanthemums, gladiolus, and roses grown in 1956.

_________________________says sample survey of 4 major cut flowers was conducted by the Crop Reporting Board of the U. S. Department of Agriculture in California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, and Iowa. Made at the request of commercial flower growers, the report shows the floral industry is increasing in volume and sales.

The 1956 sales figures of the 4 cut flowers surveyed were generally well above similar data collected in 1949 for the Agricultural Census of 1950.

Last year in all these States except Florida, carnations grown by commercial producers were valued at $10.8 million and roses at $8.8 million. In all 5 States chrysanthemums were valued at $10.6 million (pompons $6.6 million and standards $4 million) and gladiolus at $9.6 million.

A commercial producer is defined as one who produces and sells at least $1,000 worth of cut flowers, and flowering and bedding plants. In 1956 the number of producers in the 5 States was: California 443, Colorado 126, Florida 94, Illinois 450, and Iowa 130.

Intended total production in these States for 1957 indicate an increase in the flowers listed in the report.

USDA 2392 (8-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

eserve
.9
m3New

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
★ AUG 4 - 1958 ★
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

Farm Fillers

Lower Cotton Acreage

The U. S. Department of Agriculture estimates cotton in cultivation on July 1, 1957 amounted to 14.2 million acres, 15 percent less than in 1956.

- - - - - - - - - -

Record Soybean Acreage

The soybean acreage planted alone (not interplanted) this year for all purposes is estimated by the U. S. Department of Agriculture at 22.6 million acres. This would be a new record high, 3 percent above the 22 million acres planted in 1956.

- - - - - - - - - -

Tobacco Exports Down

Total exports of U. S. unmanufactured tobacco for the January-May 1957 period amounted to 148,582,000 pounds. This was 12 percent below the 168,922,000 pounds exported during the same period of 1956, says the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

- - - - - - - - - -

Smaller Calf Crop

The U. S. Department of Agriculture reports the 1957 calf crop in the United States is expected to total 41,347,000 head. This would be 2 percent less than the 42,817,000 calves born in 1956, and 3 percent below the record 1954 crop of 42,601,000 head.

- - - - - - - - - -

USDA 2393 (8-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
In31We

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
★ AUG 4 - 1958 ★
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

Forest Facts

Forest Visitors

In 1956 more than 52 million visits for recreational purposes were made to the 149 national forests of this country. The forests cover some 181 million acres of publicly-owned land, says the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

- - - - - - - - - -

Water Demand High

Daily demand for water in the United States is estimated at 200 billion gallons. The U. S. Department of Agriculture says demand may double in the next 25 years.

- - - - - - - - -

Forest Killers

Each year insects, disease, fire, and other destructive agents kill an amount of sawtimber equal to one-fourth the annual growth, says the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

- - - - - - - - -

National Forest Income

The U. S. Department of Agriculture says for the 12-month period ended June 30, receipts from sale of national-forest timber and grazing land rent amounted to over $102 million. Twenty-five percent of this will go back through the States to the counties which have land in national forests.

- - - - - - - - -

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

eserve
9
.M31we

LIBRARY
AUG 4 - 1958
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

Ten Million Bushels of U. S. Soybeans Go Into Japanese Soy Sauce

The United States is a leading world producer of soybeans, a plant which, until recent years, was largely an oriental crop. Now we are sellers to the Orient; Japan, the leading foreign market for U. S. soybeans, bought 21 million bushels last year.

Many of the beans we export to Japan are used to make an ancient oriental seasoning--soy sauce. The Foreign Agricultural Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture estimates that about 10 million bushels of U. S. soybeans will go into Japanese soy sauce in 1957. (In the United States soybeans are used principally for oil and animal feeds. A much smaller proportion goes into products like soy sauce.)

Masashi Komiya, Director of the Japan Shoyu (Soy Sauce) Association, writing in the August issue of the USDA periodical Foreign Agriculture, describes some of the unusual properties of his product which appears daily on the table of every family in Japan, rich and poor alike.

Shoyu, as he calls it, is 18 percent salt. Yet compared to sea water which is about 3 percent salt and is unbearable to the human palate, shoyu does not taste excessively salty. Japanese people obtain about one-third of their salt from this seasoning which has been an important element of their diet for 1,000 years.

Shoyu has a germicidal action, says Mr. Komiya. It will kill numerous micro-organisms associated with human ills. It also contains a nutrient called tyrosine, of special value to the heart. Some Japanese believe this nutrient has made them relatively strong in sports competitions such as long-distance running, wrestling, and table tennis which put a heavy load on the heart muscle.

Another substance contained in the sauce is tryptophane, considered to be indispensable for growth of the human body. This is believed to be responsible for the fact that, although the Japanese did not eat meat until about a century ago, the bodily build of the people before that time was not apparently inferior in any way to that of present-day Japanese.

Shoyu is made from soybeans and wheat solely by the action of yeasts and bacteria--no chemicals are used in processing. The protein of soybeans becomes nitrogen in animo-acid form and the carbohydrate of wheat is converted into alcohol and sugar. The result is a distinctive soy-sauce flavor, like a harmonious blend of salt, sugar, and vinegar.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

Reserve
1.9
In31We

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

AU
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

Farm Fillers

Record Hay Crop

Although the 1957 acreage of hay is the lowest since 1948, the U. S. Department of Agriculture says the projected yield per acre is at a record high. Total production is estimated to be 119 million tons. A total of 108.7 million tons was produced in 1956 and 112.7 million tons in 1955.

- - - - - - -

Lower Corn Crop

The U. S. Department of Agriculture estimates the 1957 corn crop to be around 3,066 million bushels. That would be 11 percent below the 3,451 million bushels produced in 1956, and 1.5 percent below the 1950-54 average of 3,112 million bushels.

- - - - - - -

Australia, Largest Wool Exporter

Australia continued to be the world's largest exporter of raw wool in 1956, says the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The actual weight of the exports totaled 1,165 million pounds, up 1.7 percent over 1955 and 41.8 percent above the 1935-39 average.

- - - - - - -

Record Barley Crop

The U. S. Department of Agriculture estimates the 1957 barley crop to be 432 million bushels -- a new record high. That would be 16 percent more than the 1956 production of 372 million bushels and 48 percent above the 10-year average.

- - - - - - -

USDA 2473 (8-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

m31We

LIBRARY

AUG 4 - 1958

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

Milk Cans Disappear from More and More Dairy Farms as Bulk Handling Takes Over

The trend toward bulk cooling and handling of milk on dairy farms is proceeding at a much faster pace than anyone anticipated. And there is no leveling off in sight. Cooling and storage of milk in farm tanks has continued its phenomenal rate of expansion into 1957, and market analysts of the U. S. Department of Agriculture predict continued conversion in most markets during the next year.

A survey made by the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service last January showed that over one-fourth of the producers in Federal order milk markets are using bulk cooling tanks. If Northeastern markets were excluded (tank installations are proceeding there at a slower pace), bulk deliveries would account for 36 percent of all producers in markets operating under Federal orders.

Nationally, the number of farm tanks doubled in 1955 and again in 1956. By December 1956, total farm tanks numbered nearly 60,000. Over 600 milk plants were receiving part or all of their milk by bulk.

The rapidity of conversion to the bulk tank system has surprised marketing analysts because of the considerable reorganization called for in switching from cans to tanks and because of the added investment and increased initial costs to the farmer. Farmers do have mixed reactions to the uncertainties involved in conversion and the shift to farm tanks continues to be spotty and uneven.

In general, large producers convert their dairy operations to the bulk tank system more readily than smaller producers. And with installation of tanks these producers usually expand their herds. In Federal order markets, producers with bulk tanks delivered an average of 765 pounds of milk daily during January 1957, while the overall average was 463 pounds.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

Reserve
1.9
In31We

AUG 1
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

Farm Fillers *

Larger Oat Crop

The 1957 oat crop is now estimated at 1,361 million bushels, says the U. S. Department of Agriculture. That would be 18 percent more than the 1,152 million bushels produced in 1956, but only 3 percent larger than average.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

Larger Apple Crop

The U. S. Department of Agriculture estimates the commercial apple crop at 115.6 million bushels. That would be 15 percent more than the 100.6 million bushels produced in 1956 and 5 percent above average.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

Record Sorghum Grain Crop

A record production of sorghum for grain this year--418 million bushels--is forecast by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. That would be more than double the 1956 crop of 205 million bushels and 72 percent above the record crop of 1955. A record number of acres planted, extensive use of new hybrid varieties, good soil moisture supplies, and irrigation are some of the factors contributing to the big crop.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

Large Soybean Crop

The U. S. Department of Agriculture estimates the 1957 soybean crop at 428 million bushels. While this would be 6 percent below the 1956 production, it would still be 58 percent above the 10-year average.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

* Note to editors: these are based on the August Crop Report.

USDA 2484 (8-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

Reserve
1.9
In31We

SERIAL RECORD
AUG 4 - 1958
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

Nursery Industry Growing

The nursery industry is growing. Sales of 8 classes of nursery products amounted to over $32 million in 1956 for producers in 5 States, says the Crop Reporting Board of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

A sample survey was conducted on the production and sales of broad-leaved evergreens, citrus and subtropical fruit trees, conifers, deciduous fruit and nut trees, deciduous shade trees, deciduous shrubs, rose plants, and grape vines. California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, and Iowa were the States selected for the survey, the first of its kind to cover the nursery industry.

The volume of sales in 1956 for all 8 classes of products were substantially above the number sold in 1949 as reported for the 1950 Census of Agriculture.

Last year in all 5 States, broad-leaved evergreens sold by commercial producers amounted to $7.3 million, rose plants $6.3 million, conifers $5.6 million, deciduous fruit and nut trees $3.7 million, deciduous shade trees $2.6 million, deciduous shrubs $2 million, and grape vines $300,000. Sales of citrus and subtropical fruit trees which were produced commercially only in California and Florida, amounted to $4.4 million.

A commercial producer is defined as one who produced and sold at least $1,000 of nursery products during 1956.

USDA 2508 (8-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
Ex3We
reserve

AUG 4 - 1958
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

For Ala., Fla., Miss., Ga., and S. Car.

New Still Produces Better Turpentine and Rosin at Lower Cost

New equipment for producing turpentine and rosin from pine gum can cut processing costs and yield higher quality naval stores products.

The Southern Utilization Research and Development Division of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has developed a continuous steam still that can operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week automatically.

The older, conventional stills process only one batch of turpentine and gum rosin at a time and require constant attention. Variations in steam pressure in this 150-year-old method often result in batches being heated for different periods of time and at different temperatures. As a result, the chemical and physical properties of the turpentine and rosin, and the amounts obtained, vary from one batch to another.

Constant operating conditions and shorter exposure to high temperatures enable the new automatic distillation unit to produce turpentine and rosin of higher and more uniform quality. Both products flow from the still continuously.

Using the continuous steam still, there is an estimated 90 percent savings in labor costs and steam savings of 50 percent. The naval stores industry as a whole would be saved an estimated $210,000 annually in operating costs if all gum processing plants used the new still.

Reserve
1.9
In31We

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

LIBRARY
AUG 4 - 1958 ★
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

U. S. Farmer Has Big Stake in Japan

The American farmer has a real interest in the ability of Japan to earn U. S. dollars, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service.

Japan is one of our leading farm markets abroad, reports the FAS. It was our No. 1 farm export market in each of the four years from 1952-55, and second only to the United Kingdom in 1956. Last year it took almost 10 percent of all U. S. agricultural exports. (Total U. S. farm exports for the 1956-57 year establish an all-time high record of $4.7 billion.)

But Japan's continued ability to buy U. S. farm products depends upon its ability to earn dollars, suggests a new report by the FAS on Japan's agricultural imports. In the long run it will be inclined to buy from countries that buy from it.

After the war, most of Japan's dollars came from U. S. armed forces expenditures. Recently, however, it has been getting fewer dollars from U. S. Government activities and more from exports. But it is still importing twice as much from us as it exports to us.

On a commodity basis, Japan imports over 2 million bales of cotton annually, one-third from the U. S.; and 25 million bags of rice, one-fourth from the U. S. Over half of its total wheat imports come from this country, from 40 to 50 million bushels, plus about 20 million bushels of soybeans, and 32 million bushels of barley. It also absorbs sizeable percentages of our exports of cattle hides, nonfat dry milk solids, and tallow.

The Japanese market for agricultural products is growing. Its population is increasing, industry is expanding, and per capita income is up, but Japanese agriculture has little room for expansion. How much of this market the United States will continue to supply depends in part upon how many dollars the Japanese will have to spend.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

Reserve
1.9
Em31We

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
AUG 4 - 1958
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

Larger Cost-Share Permissible under Agricultural Conservation Program for 1958

Greater assistance per farm will be permissible under the 1958 Agricultural Conservation Program. Recently passed legislation raises the maximum total cost-share that any one person may receive for installing soil and water conserving practices on agricultural land from $1,500 to $2,500, explains ____________________.

The program, as usual, will be administered by State and county ASC (Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation) Committees. These committees will decide which conservation practices are most needed in their areas in 1958. Help for carrying out these practices will be available to landowners, farm operators, tenants, or share croppers who have conservation problems that cannot be met from their own resources alone. Requests for cost-sharing should be filed with the local ASC committee.

Congress has authorized $250 million for the 1958 program. Similar authorizations have varied from $150 to $300 million over the past ten years. The average cost-share received by individual farmers for conservation practices in 1956 was about $150, indicating a widespread distribution of available assistance.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

Mont., Wyo., Colo., N. Dak., S. Dak., Neb., Kans., Okla., Texas, Minn., Iowa, Mo., N. Mex.

Deep Tillage Gives Temporary Aid in Controlling Soil Blowing

Unless it's done properly, deep tillage may make soil more vulnerable to the relentless gales of the Great Plains. But when drouth strips the land of its protective cover, heavy clods of soil turned up to the surface can help to reduce wind erosion.

____________________________ advises that, in general, chiseling
(State or local authority)
3 to 9 inches deep has proved effective against erosion if it is not practiced more than once a season on the same soil and not too often over a period of years. The practice is recommended for emergency use only, says ______________, and not as a regular practice.

Recent cooperative studies by the Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station and the U. S. Department of Agriculture provide some other general rules about how this method can best be used to keep bare, drouth-seared land in place. _____________________ cites some of these findings as they apply to conditions in ___________________________.
(State)

A rough surface gives the best resistance to wind erosion. Therefore, the more cloddy the soil the closer the furrows, the greater will be the surface stability.

An important factor in obtaining this is the type of tool used. In the Kansas experiments, a duckfoot cultivator was best for lifting clods in loose, medium-textured soil. A narrow chisel (preferably the heavy-duty type for most conditions) was best on compact soils with high clay content. But when tilling at a speed of less than 2 m.p.h., as was sometimes necessary with

more

an under-powered tractor, a lister was better because chisels wouldn't bring up enough clods.

Surprisingly enough, speed of tillage proved to be one of the most important factors in obtaining maximum surface roughage. Higher speeds (above 3.5 m.p.h.) generally gave the best results, but in some areas both high speeds and low speeds (2 m.p.h. or less) gave better results than intermediate speeds. The tests indicate that trials should be made at the beginning of any deep tillage operation to see what speed will produce the greatest cloddiness under whatever local conditions exist.

Spacing, too, is important. Chiseling at 27-inch spacings gave 50 percent more roughness and resulted in 75 percent less erosion than chiseling at 54-inch spacings. But it took 5 horsepower more tractor power to pull narrow chisels spaced at 27 inches than for those at 54 inches. Where wide spacing is necessary, duckfoot shovels would be better under some soil conditions to bring up enough clods. Wider spacings were adequate under moderately erodible conditions.

Depth of tillage had less effect than these other controllable factors in the Kansas tests. The most effective depth depended upon speed, spacing of tool heads and other things. As a general rule, deeper tillage produced greater surface roughness, but increased roughness was not enough in most cases to justify the extra horsepower required.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

.9
Fm31We
p.2

SERIAL RECORD
NOV 5

All States

How's Business at Your Roadside Farm Market?

Seemingly little things can spell success or failure for a roadside farm market.

_________________________ lists some things that roadside marketers
(State or local authority)
might consider if their sales volume this year has been disappointing.

First, is the location favorable? A well-traveled highway is, of course, essential. But studies show that people are more likely to stop when they are on their way to shop. A wise salesman locates on the right side of the road where many people pass on their way into town.

Equally important is convenience of shopping. Can motorists see your market from a distance, or have you installed a readable and attractive sign inviting them to stop and shop so many feet ahead? It's not safe to slam on brakes at a moment's impulse. And when prospective customers do stop, is there plenty of convenient parking space where it is easy to get off the highway and on again?

Other things that attract customers are high quality produce and fair market prices. Veteran salesmen have discovered that mixing good and poor quality merchandise pulls down the price of the whole lot. It pays to discard the poorer products, or separate them and offer them at a special low price. Customers will return if they find, by comparisons in town, that your products were a good buy.

Perhaps the most important thing of all in successful selling, some analysts have concluded, is a genuine liking for people. Thoughtful little things, like offering taste samples from a special tray, win friends and steady customers--and in the long run it's steady customers that make a business pay.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

cerve
9
n3Wc

CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
NOV 25 1958 ★
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

Careful Cutting Can Raise Returns on Timber

The value of a stand of timber, and the amount of money that can be obtained for it, depends a good deal upon how it is cut. A little planning before cutting can raise the returns considerably.

How much timber and timber quality are lost in ordinary logging operations was revealed in a study by the Central States Forest Experiment Station of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service.

Observations were based on 10 different logging operations in Southern Illinois. Logs from more than 200 black-oak trees were measured and graded for quality as they were actually cut by woods workers. The results were compared with the volume and grade of material that could have been cut from the same trees.

The report shows that 34 percent of the volume of the sample trees could have been cut into high-quality logs, in contrast to the 23 percent so cut by the local woods workers. Board-foot volume could have been increased $4\frac{1}{2}$ percent by improved log cutting.

The unplanned cutting gave a volume of 53,768 feet, compared to 56,242 feet that could have been obtained. Volume is increased when full use is made of merchantable material at the tops of trees as well as at the stumps. And both profit and quality are increased when cuts are made for maximum volume and the log lengths varied to give maximum clear lengths in certain logs and to throw knots, holes, and bud clusters into poorer logs.

The black-oak trees harvested in the Forest Service survey yielded lumber worth about $4,100. The same trees cut for maximum volume and value could have been worth $4,600, an increase of $500. It is suggested that timber cutters might be encouraged to cut logs for quality by offering higher pay for higher grade logs.

USDA 2621 (8-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

Reserve
1.9
In31We

All States

Food Fillers

Beverages Claim Fifteen Cents of the Family Food Dollar

On the average, about 15 cents of the family food dollar is spent on beverages, a U. S. Department of Agriculture survey showed. Of this, about two-thirds goes for fresh fluid milk (some to be used in cooking rather than for drinking). Over a quarter goes for coffee, a tenth for bottled and canned soft drinks, and around 4 percent for tea.

Regional preferences show up in beverages as well as foods. More money than the average was spent for fresh fluid milk in the Northeast, for coffee in the North Central States, and for soft drinks and tea in the South.

- - - - - - -

Potatoes High in Food Value

Few foods offer as much as potatoes in food value in relation to money spent. A food consumption survey by the U. S. Department of Agriculture covering about 6,000 households showed families spent about 2 percent of their weekly food budget for potatoes. For this they received 10 percent of their ascorbic acid; 4 to 6 percent of their iron, niacin, and thiamine, 2 to 3 percent of their riboflavin, protein and food energy.

- - - - - - -

New Tomato Powder To Appear Soon

Tomato powder for use in sauces, soups, juice, and dry mixes, may soon be available commercially. Developed through several years of research by U. S. Department of Agriculture food scientists, the powder mixes readily with water to make a highly acceptable juice. It can be stored indefinitely without refrigeration.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

Reserve
1.9
N31We

Cal., Ariz., N. Mex., Okla., Tex., Ark., La., Tenn., Miss., Ala.,
Ga., S.C., N. C., Va.

Cotton Clips

Cotton is grown on about 900,000 farms in the southern part of the United States extending from Virginia to California. The average national crop is about 15 million bales of cotton lint, each weighing about 500 pounds.

About two-thirds of the cotton grown in the United States is used in the mills in this country. The rest is exported; chiefly to Japan, Great Britain, and the continent of Europe.

A great deal of progress has been made in cotton production through improved varieties, better fertilizers, and insecticides. The national average yield per acre rose from 156 pounds in 1909 to 416 pounds in 1955, and the average staple length increased from slightly over seven-eighths inch in 1928 to 1 and one-thirty-seconds inches in 1955.

In 1955 about one-fourth of the total U. S. cotton crop was harvested mechanically.

Cottonseed has become an important crop. The average annual yield in the United States is now more than 6 million tons, of which only about 500,000 tons are used for planting. The rest is sold to more than 300 cottonseed mills for processing into cottonseed oil, cottonseed cake and meal, hulls, and cotton linters.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

All States

Many Small Producers Have Quit Raising Laying Hens

Many farmers who raised laying chickens last year are not doing it in 1957, according to the Crop Reporting Board of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The decrease is greatest in small flocks, many of which have evidently been liquidated.

By January 1, 1958, the total U. S. laying flock is expected to be down 6 to 8 percent from January 1, 1957. The reduction will be due to fewer replacements--the number of young chickens raised on farms this year is expected to be the lowest on record.

In February of this year, farmers reported that they intended to buy 9 percent fewer chicks than they bought last year. But they actually bought 19 percent fewer flock replacement chicks during the first six months of this year, compared to last year. During these same months, egg prices averaged 22 percent below last year and feed prices were 1 percent higher.

Every region of the the country has shown a sharp decrease in chicks raised, ranging from a 23 percent drop in the East North Central States to an 8 percent drop in South Atlantic States. These figures do not apply to broiler chicks.

USDA 2751 (9-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

All States

Tid Bits from the Yearbook of Agriculture, 1957

The Romans had several good manuals for farmers. Columella's Husbandry, written about A.D. 60, was a handbook for 15 generations. Some of his suggestions were good, even the light of modern knowledge.

Near the beginning of the 18th century, Jethro Tull, an Englishman, invented the grain drill and the cultivator, which he called a "horse hoe." Tull demonstrated that cultivation could be helpful, but he gave a wrong reason--that cultivation helped plants take in small particles of earth, especially clay.

The effect of Tull's insistence on much cultivation lasted a long time. Until recently farmers have overcultivated their soils beyond the need to incorporate organic matter and fertilizers, to make the soil receptive of rainwater, and to control weeds.

To find the unknown "principle" of plant growth, a Flemish chemist named Jan Baptista van Helmont conducted an experiment with a willow tree about 1635. He planted a small tree in 200 pounds of oven-dried soil. After growing 5 years, protected from dust and given only rainwater, the tree was removed. The soil was redried and weighed. Because the soil loss was only 2 ounces (which could be considered an experimental error) and the tree gained 165 pounds, he assumed that growth was due to water alone. Now we know that the 2 ounces were critically important and that the bulk of the 165 pounds was carbon, oxygen, and hydrogen, mostly from the air. But Van Helmont's conclusion had wide acceptance for a time.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

Reserve
1.9
In3We

For Oklahoma, Colorado, Texas, New Mexico, Kansas, Illinois

Brooms Are Still in the "Sweep" Stakes, Though Competition is Rough

The old family broom is facing stiff competition these days from synthetic fibers, vacuum cleaners and air filters. The Crop Reporting Board of the U. S. Department of Agriculture reports that production of broomcorn has declined steadily from an average of around 60,000 tons during World War I to only 20,000 tons in 1956. Drought had something to do with the unusually small 1956 acreage.

A broomcorn crop was first grown commercially near Hadley, Mass., about the turn of the 18th century. Centers of production gradually moved westward until now Oklahoma is first in production, followed by Colorado, Texas, New Mexico, Kansas, and Illinois.

Broomcorn belongs to the sorghum family. Its claim to fame is not syrup or grain but a brushy head of long, sweeping fibers. Seed branches on the upper third of the head give extra good sweeping to the new broom.

Standard broomcorn, planted principally in Oklahoma and Illinois where soils are fertile and moisture favorable, grows from 7 to 15 feet high with heads 16 to 24 inches long. Dwarf broomcorn, favored by growers in Texas and the drier southwestern areas, usually is from about 4 to 7 feet high with brush slightly shorter than standard.

Weather conditions in western areas often put broomcorn and its growers through severe tests. Harvesting, too, is difficult, requiring much hand labor from farm men, women and children as well as migrant workers who move from southern to northern areas as the harvest progresses.

The broomcorn farmer doesn't have to take acreage controls or price supports into consideration. There aren't any for broomcorn. During the past 10 years he harvested an average of 259 pounds per acre, and he sold his crop, when he had one, for an average of $354 a ton.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

Reserve
1.9
In31We

AUG 4
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Cal., Ore., Minn., Wis., Ill., Ind., Ohio, Penna., N.Y., Miss., N.J.
Conn., Va., N.C., S.C., Ga., Fla.

Muck Soils Slowly Change to Gas and Blow Away, Recent Studies Show

Rich, organic muck soils--famous for their productivity--are slowly burning themselves up and blowing away in the form of gases. Some soil scientists now estimate that half of our best organic soils have been lost in this way within the past 50 years.

Some indications of how this natural oxidation process can be slowed up and partially controlled have come out of studies by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station in the Florida Everglades, the largest peat and muck tract in the world. The same principles apply to millions of acres of rich muck and bog areas in eastern and western coastal States and the peat soils scattered from Minnesota eastward to New York and Massachusetts.

Water level is the basic answer to controlling the oxidation of these soils which were formed under high water tables, according to the USDA and Florida scientists. Water tables should be kept as high as crop and field conditions will permit. This involves proper use of border ditches, artificial "mole tunnels," and other devices for irrigation and drainage. Studies in Florida show that all soil loss occurs above the water table and is directly dependent on the height of the water table.

Peat soils last 50 to 80 percent longer with free-standing water at 24 inches below the surface than they do with the water table at 36 inches. Much valuable information on water-level tolerance of crops is being gathered in Florida. Most vegetables, it is found, start well with water at 12 inches and grow to maturity with it at 24 inches. Grass thrives with water at 12 to 15 inches--much higher than has been recommended in the past.

Proof of the soil's disappearance has come through checking the lowering soil level. By checking landmarks--some established as early as 1914--and comparing recent drainage surveys with early ones, scientists have found that the farmed peat and muck soils of Florida are subsiding at the rate of 1¼ inches a year. Some of the best soil has lost 40 percent in volume in less than half a century since it was first drained and cropped.

USDA 2813-57

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

Reserve
1.9
In31We

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
AUG 4 - 1958
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

Growing U. S. Population Requires More and More Water

Expanding industry and rising standards of living require more and more water per person to satisfy the American way of life. One-fourth the population today is troubled with water shortage, poor water, or both, reports the Soil Conservation Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The potential supply of water remains constant while needs for human use pyramid with growing population, according to the SCS. From 1900 to 1950, while U. S. population doubled, total water use, other than for power, increased fourfold. By 1955 it was up another 21 percent from 1950. Water needs are expected to double again by 1975.

Average daily use for all purposes increased from 600 gallons per capita in 1900 to 1,100 gallons in 1950 and 1,300 in 1955. By 1975 the country will be using 1,800 gallons of water a day for every man, woman, and child.

Industry and irrigation are by far the largest users.

Water problems are largely watershed protection problems, says SCS, pointing out that water control and conservation cannot be separated from soil conservation.

USDA 2814-57

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

Reserve
1.9
In31We

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
AUG 4 - 195[illegible]
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

We Are Learning More About Our Soils Says Yearbook of Agriculture 1957

The U. S. Soil Survey, organized in 1899 and carried on cooperatively between the Department of Agriculture and the State Experiment Stations, has accumulated an enormous amount of data and promoted a better understanding of our soils. But much of the work of mapping soils by types is still ahead. So says the newly released Yearbook of Agriculture for 1957 entitled "Soil."

Early soil management in the United States, according to one article in the Yearbook, was largely copied from western Europe, except for that introduced into the Southwest by the Spaniards. But practices of western Europe did not work well here for several reasons, most important of which are variations in soils and climate.

Though the soils of the Northeast are generally like the soils of western Europe, those of the South and the West are quite different. The climate of western Europe is modified strongly by the sea, and most rains are gentle. The weather in nearly all of the United States has wider extremes than in western Europe; rains are more violent, and cultivated sloping soils are more subject to erosion.

Until nearly the First World War, however, Americans continued to look to Europe for scientific leadership. It was the fashion for scientific scholars, including soil scientists, to go to Europe for advanced study and to follow European developments when they came back.

We know now that soils are individual natural bodies, dynamic and changing. Not only do soils support living plants and micro-organisms but these, in turn, have a lot to do with the formation and behavior of the soils. When we fully understand the processes going on in soils, we can change them by management to increase their productivity for plants.

The Yearbook of Agriculture is a Congressional Document and is distributed by Members of Congress. Copies are not available from the Department of Agriculture but may be purchased at $2.25 each from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

USDA 2815-57

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special
to Extension
Editors

9
N31We

All States

Better Aid to Visiting Foreign Agriculturists To Be Discussed in Washington This Week

How can American agriculture and business help visiting foreign agriculturists to profit by our experience in strengthening the agriculture and economies of their own countries? To consider this general question of effective procedures, representatives of ______________________ (your Land-Grant College) are meeting in Washington this week (October 20-23 inclusive) with other workers in the field of foreign agricultural cooperation.

The conference will be conducted by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the International Cooperation Administration with the cooperation of 50 Land Grant Colleges representing every State in the Union. It will bring together workers engaged in the foreign training program from 10 major government agencies, as well as representatives of farm organizations, educational institutions, foundations, and commercial interests.

The training program for visiting foreign agriculturists has provided guidance for more than 20,000 visitors to this country since 1949, according to the Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service. About 2,700 visitors received such assistance in the year ending June 30, 1958.

A highlight of the conference will be a banquet address by Dr. Harlan Cleveland, dean of the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs of Syracuse University on the subject, "The Art of Interfering in Other Peoples' Affairs."

Other conference speakers include Dean D. H. Sieling, University of Massachusetts; Fred Sloan, State Program Leader, North Carolina; Frank J. Walrath, agricultural economist, University of Tennessee; James H. Smith, Jr., director, International Cooperation Administration; and Jack D. Gray, coordinator of foreign programs, Texas A. & M. College.

In addition to service from government agencies and Land Grant Colleges, the foreign agricultural training program draws upon the resources of approximately 470 private organizations and institutions throughout the United States as well as innumerable farmers and individual citizens who cooperate in providing agricultural training and study opportunities.

USDA 2832 (10-58)

LIBRARY
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Reserve
1.9
In31We

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

For Ariz., Calif., Del., Fla., Ill., Iowa, Mont., and N.J.

____________________ *Among States With Highest Farm Income
(State)

____________ was among eight States which had the highest
(State)
average net per-farm income last year. Compared to a national average net income per farm of $2,432, farmers in ____________ averaged ________ in 1956, according to figures recently released by the Agricultural Marketing Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Eight States had a net income per farm of over $3,500, according to the USDA report. Other States besides ____________ were California, Arizona, Montana, Iowa Illinois, Florida, New Jersey and Delaware.

Arizona farmers had the highest net income per farm, averaging $14,094 for the year 1956.** California farmers were next, with an average net income of $8,289.

Nationally, farm income is increasing for the second consecutive year. Farmers' cash receipts from marketings in the first 8 months of 1957 totaled approximately 17.6 billion dollars, or 1 percent more than in the corresponding period last year.

An increase of approximately 150 million dollars in the January-August total of cash receipts was due to a 500 million dollar increase from livestock and livestock products only partly offset by a drop of 350 million dollars in crop receipts.

---

*See map on page 11 of attached report for your State figures and comparisons.

**Tribal rather than family farms on Indian reservations raise the average for Arizona. But even if Indian reservations were not included, the Arizona average would still be high.

USDA 2874-57

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

LIBRARY
AUG 4 - 1958
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1.9
M31We

All States

New Tools and Chemicals Make Fence Building Easier

Wooden fences are easier to build and maintain than they used to be, says ________________________. And now that the cool days of Fall are
(State or local authority)
here, this is a good season to build a fence.

One reason for new ease in fence building is the power chain saw, according to ________________. Many farmers and suburbanites own one of these saws, but those who don't can rent one from almost any hardware or tool shop.

This tool makes a post and rail fence, always a favorite type for country and large suburban properties, easy to construct. Chiseling out holes in the posts used to be a very difficult job, but now holes just the right size to hold the rails are bored quickly and easily with the power saw. Tapered rails can be locked into place as each post is set. This eliminates the need for nailing or otherwise securing the rails between the posts.

Chemical treatment will reduce fence upkeep by guarding against decay, thus doubling or tripling the life of a wooden fence. The material most often recommended for treating wooden fences and fence posts is pentachlorophenol. In some areas fence posts and rails, or cut lumber, already treated with "penta" can be purchased. Or the fencing can be treated after purchase by soaking it in a trough, oil drum or barrel. For this purpose, a concentrated form of pentachlorophenol can be purchased from almost any building supply store and mixed with light oil according to directions given on the label.

Wood must be dry and well seasoned before treatment, says ____________, so that the chemical can soak into the wood. Once it is well penetrated with "penta," wood will remain resistent for many years to moisture, insects, and organisms that produce decay. This treatment more than pays for itself in extra life for the fence, unless a naturally durable wood such as black oak, locust, or catalpa is used. If desired, paint can be applied to treated wood,but it adds no extra protection.

Stripped and seasoned rails and posts can be purchased directly from many woodlot owners. For those who prefer fences made from cut lumber, many building supply stores offer literature and advice about styles and how to build them.

USDA 2891 (9-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

Reserve
1.9
Ex31Wue

1958
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

Yearbook of Agriculture Describes Development of Nitrogen Fertilizer

Some early agricultural scientists seem to have been blessed with a crystal-ball intuition. The Yearbook of Agriculture for 1957 describes how knowledge of soil and its capabilities for growing crops have grown out of man's foresight as well as scientific investigations. An example of this led to the development of nitrogen fertilizer.

In 1898, according to the Yearbook, the English scientist Sir William Crookes delivered an address on the problem of wheat production for a growing population. Wheat yields were not keeping up with the need, and he foresaw "impending catastrophe." The solution, he said, lay in the fixation of atmospheric nitrogen by chemical processes. That alone, he maintained, could save the countries whose people depend on wheat bread.

His forecast proved to be remarkably accurate. But it was not until the early years of the First World War that a German chemist named Fritz Haber developed a process for combining nitrogen from the air and hydrogen from natural gas or petroleum to form ammonia, NH_3. This answered the most serious problem of that time in soil management and world food production, a supply of nitrogenous fertilizers.

More than 3 million tons of ammonia are now produced yearly in this way in the United States.

The Yearbook of Agriculture is a Congressional Document, distributed by Members of Congress. Copies may be purchased at $2.25 each from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. "Soil" is the title of the 1957 edition.

USDA 2892 (9-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

RY
58 ★
TURE

All States

Cows to Pasture or Pasture to Cows?

Does it pay to send the cows to pasture, or is it better to bring the pasture to the cows? Dairy farmers everywhere have been much interested in recent studies designed to measure the comparative advantages of feeding freshly-cut, chopped green forage to animals confined in pens, as compared to grazing the same animals.

A recent study in Pennsylvania by the U. S. Department of Agriculture cooperating with the Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station indicates that on many dairy farms green-chop feeding may be more profitable than grazing.

For one thing, grassland feed is used more efficiently when it is green-chopped and fed, according to the study made on a "typical" dairy farm. Cows, it was found, trample and waste up to 40 percent of the available feed while grazing on lush growth.

Field choppers were used to convert heavy grass crops into feed. Using the chopper thus daily during the summer, rather than a few days a year to make silage, cuts the hourly overhead expense of the chopper.

Self-unloading wagons and feed bunks are required for green-chop feeding. But the cost of these is partially offset by less travel in taking cows to and from pasture, need for less fencing, and elimination of extensive watering systems in distant pastures, the Pennsylvania study showed.

The operator of the farm studies had excess barn space and plenty of labor available. A change from grazing to green-chop feeding would enable this farmer to add three cows to his herd. This would increase his income by $400 to $600 a year after interest on the capital needed for new equipment.

Before changing to a green-chop feeding system, a dairy operator would need to consider advantages and disadvantages as they would apply to his particular farm resources.

USDA 2893 (9-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

Reserve
1.9
In31We

For Ala., Ark., Fla., Ga., La., Miss., N.C., S.C.

New Self-Fertile Muscadine Grape Is Sweet and Tasty

A new high-quality, self-fertile muscadine grape has been developed for Southern United States. It's the recently-released Dearing.

Produced by North Carolina and U. S. Department of Agriculture plant breeders, the Dearing is the best perfect-flowered muscadine grape developed so far. This means that, unlike most muscadine varieties, one vine can produce fruit, making it unnecessary to interplant with male vines.

The Dearing is a medium-sized, translucent green, late-midseason variety. Described by its breeders as sweet and tasty, it should be an excellent grape for home vineyards. It also is suggested as a useful pollinizer of commercial one-sex varieties.

The perfect-flower characteristic of the Dearing resulted from 3 chance seedlings found some years ago--one growing in the wild and two in experimental nurseries. Until the release of several perfect-flowered varieties a few years ago, all muscadines bore flowers of one sex only. The Dearing is the first perfect-flowered muscadine with flavor and quality comparable to the older one-sex varieties.

Dearing vines will be available from commercial nurseries this fall and winter.

USDA 2927 (9-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

Reserve
1.9
Ag31We
JUN 24 1958

All States

1958 Conservation Reserve Offers More Advantages to Landowners

Recent changes in the Soil Bank's Conservation Reserve offer some extra advantages to landowners who sign contracts under this program for 1958, ________________ reminds ________ farmers.
(State or local authority) (area)

Any farmer or landowner who has acreage that could be planted to shrubs and trees would be wise to check with his local ASC Committee to find how these changes might affect him, suggests __________. Sign-ups under Conservation Reserve contracts are beginning this month (October) and will continue through April 15.

One change of interest to many landowners is more flexibility in the length of the contracts. Previously all tree and shrub plantings were under 10-year contracts only. Now, at the option of the producer, 5-year and 10-year contracts are available for shelterbelt and wildlife habitat plantings. The 10-year requirement still applies to forest trees. Contracts provide for initial payments to help meet the expense of planting and additional yearly payments for keeping the land out of crop production.

The 1958 program also authorizes county ASC Committees to grant higher non-diversion rates of payment when all the eligible land on a farm is planted to shrubs and trees, or when any of the land is planted to forest trees. Even higher rates may be given when the entire eligible acreage on a farm is planted with trees. The payment rate will depend upon land value, rental rate, productivity of the farm, and other pertinent factors to be decided by the committee, which can explain the program details.

Another change is a new provision which permits a landowner to accept other help in establishing trees and shrubs for wildlife without reducing his Soil Bank payments. Formerly any other help received was deducted from Government payments, which could amount to up to 80 percent of the cost of establishing the practice. Now, help from sportsmen's groups, conservation organizations, State fish and wildlife authorities, or other outside sources, will not affect the amount authorized by the ASC Committee.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

All States

Farm Fillers

About 96 percent of U. S. farms and ranches are family-operated, the same proportion as 30 years ago.

- - - - -

Farm ownership is at an all-time high, and only 1 out of 3 farms has a mortgage, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

- - - - -

Interest in soil conservation is growing. Participation by farmers in soil conservation programs has increased 37 percent in the past four years, reports the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

- - - - -

There are about 10,000 agricultural marketing and farm supply cooperatives in the United States, according to the Farmer Cooperative Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Each of these is owned and controlled by farmers and ranchers.

- - - - -

USDA 2956 (10-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special
to Extension
Editors

All States

Farm Real Estate Values Continue to Climb

Farm land values in __________ (State) * rose __________ percent during the year ending July 1, 1957, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture's quarterly report on current developments in the farm real estate market.

Nationally the dollar value of farm real estate continued its long term upward trend during the year reported, bringing farm values to an all-time high. Across the nation, farm values rose 8 percent, with the largest increases in the eastern two-thirds of the country. In only one State--New Mexico--values increased by less than 2 percent.

Generally favorable crop prospects in mid-1957 and continuing pressures to enlarge existing farms were considered dominant agricultural forces in strengthening farm values. Other important factors cited by the report were continued high level of business activity, a slowly rising general price level, and need for space for an expanding economy.

Increases in value were smallest in those States most severely affected by drought during 1956. In these States increases ranged from 1 to 4 percent. Sharpest increases occurred in Florida with 17 percent, followed by New Jersey with 12 percent, and Delaware and Rhode Island with an 11 percent increase each.

Meanwhile, farm sales continued generally low, with increased sales occurring in only three areas of the country--the Lake States, Southeast and Delta States. The national rate of about 31 farm sales per 1,000 farms during the year ending March 15, 1957, was 3 percent less than a year earlier. Most buyers and sellers were farmers.

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
JUN 24 1958
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

* Find percentage increase for your State on map on page 2 of attached report.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

1.9
In31We

All States

Hog Producers Are Warned to Avoid Too Heavy Production in 1958

Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson has asked hog producers to consider their production intentions for 1958 with especial care in light of the present hog price situation.

Hog prices have been fairly good this year--running between $17 and $22 per hundred pounds through September. But what will happen to prices by fall of 1958 and the following year depends upon the number of pigs produced next spring. Too many sows farrowed early next year could mean a severe decline in price next fall.

Except for slight seasonal downturns, hog prices have been steadily recovering from a low point of around $10 per hundred pounds to which they fell in December 1955. The gains of the past two years can be maintained only if supply is kept reasonably close to prospective demand.

The Secretary is concerned because conditions exist this fall which could stimulate production to the extent that prices would again dip disastrously. And the market would be flooded with pork beyond consumers' demands.

Among factors which point to increased hog production next year is a large supply of feed grains at a relatively low price due to bumper crops this year. The number of bushels of corn that could be bought with the price of a hundred pounds of hogs has averaged slightly above 12 over many years. This September it rose to a high of 16.6 bushels, and it is expected to run between 14 and 15 during the current breeding season. Such a situation almost invariably leads to increased farrowings.

Increased population should take care of a moderate increase in the 1958 spring pig crop, but growth in consumer demand for pork has been slow. The Department's market analysts warn that more-than-moderate increases could lead to a repetition of the unfavorable price situation of late 1955. They think that at least a 7-percent increase is in prospect, and for a gain of this size price declines might not be exceptionally large. For increases above 7 percent the risk of sharp declines would be greater.

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
☆ JUN 24 1958 ☆
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

USDA 3027-57

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special
to Extension
Editors

Reserve
1.9
In31We

For designated counties in: Colo., Kans., Mont., Neb., N.M., N.D., Okla.,
S.D., Texas and Wyo. (See attached sheet)

Cost-Sharing Help Now Available for Long-Term Conservation Plans in Great Plains

Long-term help is now available to farmers and ranchers in __________ County for soil and water conservation plans which will protect their land from erosion and other climatic hazards.

This help is provided by the U. S. Department of Agriculture under the Great Plains Conservation Program authorized by Congress last year. Any county USDA office can give information about the program and furnish application forms, but administrative details will be handled by the Soil Conservation Service. Local SCS offices will pass upon applications for help and will provide technical advice and assistance to farmers and ranchers who wish to take advantage of the program.

The Great Plains Conservation Program provides for financial aid up to 80 percent of the total cost of establishing practices under an approved conservation plan. The plan must be carried out over a period ranging from 3 to 10 years, in accordance with the terms of a contract between the farm or ranch operator and an SCS official acting for the Secretary of Agriculture.

To apply for cost-sharing aid under the Great Plains Conservation Program, a farm or ranch operator must have a definite plan, including needed measures for protecting his soil or conserving available moisture. In drawing up such a plan, he can obtain help from his county agent or from the Soil Conservation Service. Payments will be made when the plan, or some identifiable part of it, is carried out.

Applications are now available in most county USDA offices. The Great Plains Conservation Program is part of a total program for this area developed by the Department of Agriculture and the Great Plains Agricultural Council. It applies only in counties designated by the Secretary of Agriculture.

The Great Plains Conservation Program supplements other cost-sharing and credit programs such as the Agricultural Conservation Program which has been available for some years on an annual basis through local ASC Committees. A contract under this new program will not cancel or alter any other agreements already made.

USDA 3055 (10-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

Reserve
1.9
IN31We

All States

New Testing Device May Lead to Better Milk for Today's Market

A portable testing kit for measuring the total solids content of small samples of milk has been developed by USDA dairy scientists, reports ______ (State ________________. or local authority)

This new testing device, now in use in cooperative Federal-State breeding experiments in 6 southern and mid-western States,*should speed the breeding of dairy animals whose milk is better suited to today's markets. It will also aid scientists who are studying the effects of feeding, climate, and inheritance on the nonfat solids content of milk.

Quality of milk used to be judged almost solely on the basis of its cream content, explains ______________. But not so today. Weight-conscious Americans include less butterfat in their diets and other products compete with butter as table spreads. Nutrition experts and consumers have become increasingly interested in the nonfat content of milk as an important source of protein, lactose, casein, albumin, sugar and several minerals important in the human diet. Some of these are also in demand for industrial uses.

To meet today's market demands, dairy scientists have been aware of the need to breed strains of dairy animals that would produce milk of the greatest all-round food value with less emphasis on butterfat. Lack of a practical means of measuring the nonfat solids content of milk under field conditions--an equivalent of the well-known Babcock test for butterfat--has been a barrier to progress in this field. The new testing device used in conjunction with the Babcock test meets this need and eliminates more intricate laboratory methods.

After discussing the potential value of the new testing kit, a committee of the American Dairy Science Association is planning to organize an interstate cooperative effort to study milk quality on the basis of variations in nonfat solids as they are affected by climate, environment, and inheritance.

*
Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wisconsin

USDA 3116 (10-57)

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
★ JUN 23 1951
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

Reserve
1.9
In31We

All States

Christmas Trees Can Be Sold By U. S. Grades This Winter

For the first time, Christmas trees can be harvested and sold this year on the basis of Federally standardized grades. This offers possibilities for better returns to growers for good quality trees, says ______________.

U. S. grade standards, developed at the request of State and national Christmas tree associations, become effective November 1. Grading will be voluntary and inspection service will be provided for a moderate fee by the Department of Agriculture at all major shipping points and terminal markets. Grades will include U. S. Premium, U. S. No. 1, and U. S. No. 2. Trees that can't qualify for any of these grades will be listed as culls.

In the past many growers have sold their trees in random lots, just as a whole field was harvested, says ________________. Dealers could not pay too high for such lots since at times they contained as much as 30 percent culls. Grading will make it possible for growers to command a better price for batches of high quality trees, and it will protect dealers from taking a loss on cull trees mixed in with better ones.

Also, in harvesting, it will be possible for growers to select trees that will bring better prices and leave the others for later harvest either for the Christmas trade or other purposes.

More detailed information on grades can be obtained by writing to the Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. (or to some State source).

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
☆ JUN 13 1958 ☆
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

Reserve

1.9
In31We

All States

It May Pay to Hold Soybeans Harvested This Year

Soybean producers may make a better profit from the crop they harvest this year if they hold it for possible price rises after the first of the year, suggests ______________________.
(State or local authority)

Prices around harvest time are expected to average close to the support level of $2.09 per bushel. Unless a somewhat better price develops, it may pay farmers who are able to do so to hold their beans for later sale, says __________. The support price tends to create a floor under the market, so the harvest-time level should be maintained at least through January, and possibilities are good for the usual seasonal price rise, he explains.

Both acreage and yields of soybeans have been steadily increasing in recent years. Improved weather this fall after a dry summer has raised the prospect of a record high, though somewhat later, harvest this year from the biggest acreage yet planted.

Over the years, demand has kept pace with the expanding supplies of soybean oil so that prices have consistently averaged above support levels. A record high crop is expected to keep prices close to the support level at harvest time this year.

Top price then for the 1957-58 crop will depend in part upon the size of foreign crops, effect of which will not be felt here until early next year. However, soybean exports have been rising and they can be reasonably expected to increase again. This should make holding for later sale a reasonably good risk.

Since the situation is rather "iffy," it would be wise to sell promptly at any significant rise in prices after harvest unless something happens to change the fats and oils situation, says ____________.

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
☆ JUN 13 1958 ☆
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

Reserve

1.9

31

In We

All States except Florida

Keep Poinsettias Away from Artificial Lights After Dark

If you have a poinsettia that you have saved from last Christmas and you would like it to brighten your house again this winter, it is important that you understand its light requirements, says ___________.

The poinsettia is a plant that develops its bloom when the days are short and the nights are long. "Bloom" in the case of the poinsettia is really just brightly colored leaves surrounding an inconspicuous flower, but neither the flower nor the color will appear if light conditions are not right.

To help your poinsettia to bloom this winter, keep it in a room which you do not use at night. Even short periods of exposure to night lights will interfere with blooming. In effect, this lengthens the day and the plant continues to act as though it were summer.

The shortened days of fall are a signal to this plant to prepare itself to bloom. Just how this mechanism works, no one understands completely, but the varying effects of light and day lengths have been observed with many plants. Scientists call this photoperiodism.

Once the plant has bloomed and you have brought it out into the night lights, the red leaves will begin to fall after a week or so and the plant will enter a rest period.

A poinsettia also drops its leaves if its roots are congested. Foliage drop at this time of year may indicate that it needs to be replanted in a larger pot.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

Reserve
1.9
In31We

LIBRARY
AUG 4 - 1958
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

Hunting and Fishing Are Better Than Ever

Despite some gloomy predictions of the past that American wildlife was being wiped out by growing human population and modern farming methods, hunting and fishing are actually getting better and better.

There are more kinds and greater numbers of game and fish in the United States today than there were when European settlers first arrived here, according to a wildlife authority writing in the November issue of Soil Conservation, official magazine of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service.

The passenger pigeon, heath hen and bison are gone, says A. E. Borell, but in their stead we have pheasants, chuckars, Hungarian partridge, and tremendous populations of deer. Small fur animals such as rabbits, foxes, and raccoons are also on the increase in many areas. And while many streams and natural lakes have declined, we now have thousands of acres of manmade ponds, lakes, and reservoirs that provide good fishing where little or no fishing existed 100, 50, or even 10 years ago.

Reports indicate overpopulations of deer in a number of States including Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Michigan, Texas, West Virginia, California, and Arizona. Some Western States such as Utah, Colorado, Montana, and Wyoming are making efforts to attract out-of-state hunters to help harvest heavy numbers of deer, and in some cases, elk and antelope. New Mexican game management authorities report growing numbers there of antelope, elk, mountain sheep, javelina, wild turkey, and deer.

Planting of windbreaks and shelterbelts in the Great Plains, according to Borell, has encouraged the spread of some native game species, especially raccoon, foxes, tree squirrels and deer, to ranges where they scarcely existed 50 years ago. Even waterfowl--the wildlife resource which was supposedly being destroyed by drainage projects--has been on the upgrade for several years, due in part to manmade ponds which provide drinking water and resting places for migrating birds.

In general, modern farming methods and soil conservation practices are providing more food and better distribution of cover for many kinds of wildlife, according to Borell, who is confident that 100 years from now the ability of the land and water to support people and wildlife will be even greater than it is today.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

Reserve
1.9
In3Wk

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
AUG 4 1958
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

Numbers of Farms in ________* and U. S. Are Decreasing
(State)

U. S. farms are decreasing in number and increasing in size. Farms in ____________ (State) are no exception to the general rule. There are now approximately ____________ farms in ____________ (State), compared to ____________ (number) in ________ (year), the year in which farms in this State reached their peak in numbers.

This comparison is based on revised estimates of census figures up to 1956, as reported by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. In 1910 ________ (State) farms numbered ____________, according to the USDA report which gives numbers of farms by States for each year since then.

While numbers of farms have been decreasing, investment per farm has gone up--averaging $27,000 this year, according to other Department of Agriculture research.

Nationally, the total acreage of cropland harvested in 1957 is about the same as in 1940. But the size of farms has risen about 40 percent since that time and output per farm is up 74 percent. Farm output per manhour has more than doubled, and the average farm worker now produces enough food and fiber for himself and 20 others.

* Figures for your State are given in the attached report.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

Reserve
1.9
In 31 We

AUG 4 - 1958 ★
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi

An Insect's Bad Habits Helped In Breeding a Sweet Lupine for Southern Grazing

Thrips, like cattle, refuse to feed on bitter lupines. This characteristic made an otherwise nasty little insect pest valuable to plant breeders searching for a tasty lupine for southern grazing. As a result of their work, a sweet lupine adapted to Georgia and the Gulf States will be available in a few years.

Lupines make heavy growth in February, March and April, as in-between period when grazing of small grains must be stopped to allow heading, and permanent pastures are not yet ready. Such a plant would make year-round grazing possible in the Gulf area. But most lupines are so bitter that cattle refuse to graze them.

Borre, a sweet blue lupine developed in Sweden, has been tried out as a pasture plant for the Gulf States. Unfortunately, however, Borre can not be distinguished by appearance of its seed or plant from the common bitter varieties, and a mixture containing even 5 percent of the bitter types makes a pasture unpalatable.

USDA and Georgia Agricultural Experiment Station scientists have been working at Tifton, Ga., to produce a sweet lupine with white seed, white flowers and green stems; in contrast to the gray, mottled seeds, purple stems and blue flowers of Borre and the common lupines. They have crossed the Swedish variety with a wild, bitter strain from New Zealand that has the color characteristics desired.

This is how the thrip's bad habits became useful. Some of the plants resulting from such crosses are sweet and some are bitter. The scientists wanted to keep the sweet plants with desired coloration for further breeding and discard the bitter ones. When exposed to thrip attack, the uninjured plants were readily identified and weeded out, while somewhat-injured sweet ones were still useful.

The new sweet line resulting from the work in Georgia is now being increased to commercial quantities. In a few years it will be available for pasture seeding.

USDA 3387 (11-57)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

Reserve
1.9
IN31We

All States

Corn and Livestock Get Together in a New Combination

Corn is a kingpin in the production and raising of all our four-footed domestic animals. Now it has stepped into the picture as a tanning agent to help turn their hides into new and superior types of leather.

Dialdehyde starch, a new corn product developed by U. S. Department of Agriculture utilization researchers, shows great promise for production of garment and glove leathers with unique properties. Cooperative work with commercial tanners is already under way.

At present we are completely dependent on other countries for tanning agents, importing about 240 million pounds a year. Chrome ore, the source of a chrome chemically universally used to tan light leathers for the upper part of shoes, is imported from Africa and other parts of the world. Vegetable tannins from bark and wood, for tanning shoe soles and upholstery, come from South America, Africa, France, and Italy.

A tanning agent from a domestic crop that is always available and frequently in surplus would offer definite economic advantages. But, in addition, it opens up some new possibilities for leather use.

First, it makes an off-white leather, easier to dye into pastel shades for women's wardrobes than chrome-tanned blue leather. Then, too, dialdehyde-starch-tanned leather can be washed in mildly alkaline solutions, such as soapy water, without losing its tanning and drying hard and bony. Used in test combinations with other tanning agents, the dialdehyde starch is also showing resistance to perspiration, another obvious advantage.

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
☆ JUN 13 1958 ☆
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

Reserve
1.9
In31We

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
AUG 4 - 1958
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

Better Nutrition Education Has Helped to Improve American Diets

Better knowledge of the essential elements in a good diet, and how to "balance" meals, has gone hand-in-hand with abundant food supplies in helping American housewives to improve their families' eating habits.

So said nutrition experts of the U. S. Department of Agriculture reporting at the annual Agricultural Outlook Conference on changes in food consumption in this country over the past 20 years.

Periodic dietary surveys of various population groups have shown that considerable improvement in family diets has taken place in this country in the past several decades. In the 1930's, when a large-scale survey was made, a third of the diets was classed as "poor." Another survey in 1955 revealed that only a tenth of the families could be said to have poor diets, using the same standards as in the earlier study.

A number of factors have contributed to this improvement, said Dr. Ruth Leverton of the Department's Human Nutrition Research Division. Food supplies are ample to meet demand, quality is high, and we have enjoyed economic conditions under which an increasing proportion of people have been able to have the kinds of foods they want. Enrichment of bread and other grain products has restored some of the food values previously lost in milling. But, equally important, continued emphasis on research and education in human nutrition has helped family food buyers to choose the kinds of foods and the variety needed to supply all the essential elements of a good diet at levels recommended for maintenance of good health standards.

Among the relatively few families whose diets still fall short of recommended standards, the nutrients in shortest supply are calcium and ascorbic acid (vitamin C). Three out of 10 families receive less than recommended amounts of calcium (found mostly in milk and dairy products), and one out of four families lack sufficient ascorbic acid (of which citrus fruits is one of the best sources).

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

Reserve
1.9
In31We

All States

Knock-Out Gas Before Slaughter Can Improve Quality of Dressed Poultry

Proper and thorough bleeding is essential to high quality in poultry meat. A new technique of knocking out birds with carbon dioxide gas immediately before slaughter appears, from tests carried out by the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Marketing Service, to cause faster and more complete bleeding than the methods now generally in use.

With poultry processing standards coming in for closer scrutiny, many poultry processors are looking for ways to improve their procedures to produce a better-quality product. Some processors feel that meat-type birds raised on high-carbohydrate feeds for fast gaining are prone to bleed slower and less completely at slaughter time. With speeded-up processing, this has led to many birds being poorly bled.

The USDA experiments showed that birds knocked out with carbon dioxide, shortly before slaughter, bled more freely than similar ones not treated, especially in the first 30 seconds. After 3 minutes, the amount of bleeding in proportion to weight was still greater for the gassed birds, but not significantly so.

The birds were gassed in a specially-constructed wooden box with a glass window in the top. A CO_2 concentration of 33 to 36 percent was maintained by supplying gas through a small rubber hose and using a small electric fan in the box to circulate the mixture. Each chicken was removed after 75 seconds exposure and slaughtered at 21 seconds after removal.

Previous tests had shown that higher concentrations of gas caused convulsions or death, while lower concentrations failed to immobilize the birds. With the 33 to 36 percent concentration, they were quickly immobilized without detrimental effects.

USDA poultry quality experts believe that gassing may prove to be a practical and inexpensive means of insuring quick and more complete bleeding in poultry processing.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

Reserve
1.9
In31We

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

AUG 4 - 1958
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

Upward Trend in Farmland Values Expected to Continue

Despite a leveling off of farm real estate values in the Eastern Corn Belt and other scattered States* during the four months ending November 1, predictions are that the price of farmland will continue its general upward trend and demand for farmland will remain strong.

An essentially unchanged level of farmland values in Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York, during the 4-month period, was the most significant departure from recent upward trends reported by the U. S. Department of Agriculture in its quarterly report on the farm real estate market. The national average increase for the period was 2 percent.

In the 12 months ended November 1, all but 2 States, Iowa and Maine, showed increases in farmland values of 5 percent or more. The national average increase for the 12 months was 8 percent.

Market prices of farm real estate are expected to advance further in 1958, although the increase may be a little less than in 1957. Higher interest rates and more selective screening of loan applications for farm mortgages may act as a brake. But other factors responsible for the rise in values since 1954 are still present and likely to continue. Among these are general inflationary pressures, demand for land for nonfarm uses, Government programs for agriculture, and the cost reductions that can be realized by operating larger farms.

Improved highways and the strong desire of city people for country living is likely to continue to disperse population and industry into previously rural areas. And there appears to be little prospect that the pressure to enlarge existing farms will slacken in the next few years, since many thousands of commercial farms are still too small for the most efficient use of modern production techniques.

---

*Check map on front page of attached report to see if your State is included in the white area (indicating an average increase of 1 percent or less).

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

Reserve 1.9 In3Wc

For Ark., Ga., Fla., La., Miss., Tex.

Delay Replanting of Pine Woods to Avoid Weevil Damage

Don't be in too big a hurry to replant pine woods that has been cut over or killed by bark beetles or fire. That's the advice of

__________________________, who has some tips on how to protect
(State or local authority)
newly-planted pine seedlings from pales weevils (pitch-eating weevils).

Tests by the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service in east Texas show that weevil attacks can usually be avoided if a period of time is allowed to pass before harvested or burnt-over acreage is replanted. Weevils breed in the bark and stumps of dying trees, and these insects will kill young seedlings nearby by feeding heavily on their bark and the cambium layer beneath. After 6 to 9 months stumps cease to attract weevils, and seedlings planted then will escape heavy damage.

If immediate replanting is necessary following a summer, fall, or early winter cutting, insecticides should be used to protect the young plants, says ____________. He suggests dipping the above-ground parts of the seedlings in a 1-percent suspension of benzene hexachloride or a 1-percent water emulsion of aldrin, before planting. These chemicals should be kept off the roots. And, since they are poisonous, they should be handled with care.

Natural seedlings--those that grow up themselves--are usually immune to attack by weevils for about a year. After that they are as vulnerable as planted stock. Cuttings made at the time of seedfall will permit natural new growth to get a good start. By the time the new seedlings are big enough to be vulnerable to attack, weevils will have left the old stumps. But heavy damage can be expected to 1-and -2-year-old natural seedlings in newly cut-over areas.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special
to Extension
Editors

1.9
N31We
Cop. 2

All States

Over-the-Fence Trading of Livestock Is On the Increase

More and more livestock are moving to market these days through "over-the-fence" transactions, or outlets close to the producer.

Back in Granddad's day almost all livestock, except poultry, were marketed through a relatively few central stockyards, called terminal markets. But, with greater numbers of animals going to market local trading through country outlets and auctions are becoming more important says ________________ __________.

The great terminal market is still in the picture, but the livestock producer now has a wider choice of outlets for disposing of his product, according to _______ _______ _. This means more marketing possibilities and possibly a greater return for alert livestockmen.

A recent study by the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service showed that over 23 million head of livestock were sold in 1955 through country outlets (local dealers, roving packers' agents, or other farmers). Auction sales disposed of an additional 16 million head, and terminal markets handled the remaining approximately 21 million head. (These figures are based on the marketing equivalent of 1 head of cattle to 3 calves, 4 hogs, or 10 sheep.)

The shift from mass selling of livestock at a few terminal outlets has been in progress since shortly after World War I. But the development has been uneven and the pattern of sales differs in different parts of the country. Terminal markets still lead the field in North Central States. In the South, auctions are the preferred marketing method; while in the Northeast and West, country selling is the outlet.

Where there is a choice of outlets, a producer should consider the services available through the various channels, his selling costs, the competition likely to be encountered, and, of course, his net return from the sale, suggests _________. In a changing market situation, it is worthwhile to keep abreast of developments to determine the best possible deal.

RECORD
T OF AGRICULTURE

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

Reserve
1.9
In31We

All States

Forest Service Seeks Blight Resistant American Chestnut

Large blight-free American chestnut trees were located in 36 States in 1957. This again raises hopes that the once proud giant may return to American forests.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service is testing the new-found trees to see if they are resistant to the Asiatic blight. The disease has virtually wiped out the American chestnut since its introduction to this country 50 years ago. Trees can be tested by artificially inoculating them with the blight-causing fungus to make sure that they have been exposed and have successfully resisted its attack. Or scionwood from these trees can be grafted onto seedlings in areas where the blight is known to be present. Resistant trees will live and others will die after sufficient exposure.

Blight-resistant Chinese chestnuts have been grown in this country for some years. The nuts are similar to American chestnuts, but the tree is small, orchard type and, contrasted to the American variety, of little value for timber.

The Forest Service would like to locate additional large American chestnut trees. Its scientists are willing to cooperate with private owners who would like to grow and test trees by grafting. More information about this and instructions for grafting can be obtained by writing the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

3656 (12-57)

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
JUN 13 1958
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

Reserve
1.9
In3We

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

LIBRARY
AUG 4 - 1958
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

X-Rays Show Some Promise for Spotting Dwarfism in Cattle Breeding Herds

Dwarfs--bane of the cattle breeding industry--are of course easy to recognize, but the seemingly normal animals that carry this inherited characteristic and pass it along to some of their offspring are hard to identify. Much work is being done to find a way to spot these carriers so they can be culled from breeding herds. If a dependable test that could be applied to all breeding stock were found, then cattle breeders would be able to breathe easily about this problem which has caused high losses in some herds, says _________________.

Research points to X-rays as the best method so far for spotting carriers. Pictures taken when a calf is 1-to-10 days old reveal spinal abnormalities characteristic of many animals that carry dwarfism. But the equipment is expensive and the results are not entirely certain. This rules X-ray out for the time being as a practical tool, except for the large operator, the veterinarian, or research agencies.

The small breeder's best bet, according to ____________, is to examine the blood lines of breeding stock he plans to buy and to buy from breeders who are making special efforts to produce dwarf-free stock.

X-ray as a means of identifying carriers of dwarfism was first used at the Iowa State experiment station in studies undertaken cooperatively with the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The work is now being supplemented at numerous other State experiment stations, principally Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Tennessee, with support from private industry and individuals, as well as Federal and State governments.

A recent round-up of test results shows how effective X-ray can be and also points to some of its limitations as a detection method. Of 186 known carriers at all the cooperating stations, X-rays showed 167, or 90 percent, had abnormal vertebrae. Of several thousand calves thought to be free to dwarf genes (not carriers), 80 percent had completely normal vertebrae. Among the others, it has been impossible to distinguish between mild abnormalities unrelated to dwarfism and some thought to be due to the dwarf gene. Lengthy breeding tests are necessary to establish this difference. Breeding tests must also be used as a further screen for animals with seemingly normal vertebrae.

Meanwhile the search goes on for other methods which might prove more certain and more practical for spotting these hidden saboteurs of cattle profits. An instrument called a profilometer, developed some years ago to find carriers among mature Hereford bulls, hasn't proved as accurate as expected. This detected a slight forehead bulge thought to mark normal-looking animals as dwarf carriers. Outward physical appearance is still being carefully studied, however, for characteristics that might identify the carrier. Another possibility is a chemical test of some kind to which carriers might react consistently.